

Iraq rejects Saudi call for OPEC talks

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraq Friday rejected a call by Saudi Arabia for an emergency OPEC summit to discuss production figures in light of the Gulf crisis. Iraq's oil minister, Izzat Ali Chaiab, said that OPEC oil ministers had recently agreed that the world's oil supply was sufficient, the Iraqi News Agency reported. He said that OPEC ministers agreed at their July meeting that production should be limited due to the oil glut stored in the main consuming nations. Saudi Arabia called Thursday for an emergency OPEC conference to discuss how to deal with the market situation in light of the Iraq-Kuwait crisis. Saudi Oil Minister Fahd bin Abdulaziz said that the kingdom, along with other OPEC members of the group, "have asked for an immediate OPEC meeting to discuss a unified decision on dealing with conditions of the market." The minister, in a short official statement, also denied that the kingdom had notified any of its customers of any cutbacks in oil supply for the month of September. (See related story on page 7)

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King briefs Yemeni leader on U.S. visit

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein telephoned Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh Friday evening. The King briefed the Yemeni leader on the discussions and results of the talks which he held with the U.S. president on the Gulf crisis and the reactions to it in the area.

Nakayama begins Mideast mission

TOKYO (R) — Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu sent his foreign minister to the Middle East Friday to determine a new Japanese policy for the region as his government came under pressure to take swift action on the Gulf crisis. Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama left for Saudi Arabia, Oman, Jordan, Egypt and Turkey Friday, two days after Kaifu was originally scheduled to do so, to ask leaders there what they want from Japan. Foreign Ministry spokesman Taiso Watanabe said, "The cabinet will make a final decision (on a Mideast policy) after the foreign minister returns." On Aug. 25, Watanabe told reporters.

Rabat says it has no Gulf initiative

RABAT (AP) — Morocco is not formulating a plan for resolving the Middle East crisis brought on by the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait, according to a senior Foreign Ministry official. "There is absolutely no Maghreb plan on this subject," the unidentified official told the Moroccan news agency MAP in a report published Friday. A French news report said Thursday that Moroccan King Hassan II would unveil a "North African solution" Monday calling for the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait. Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat reportedly proposed to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein this week that North African countries mediate the Gulf crisis.

Khaddam leaves Iran

NICOSIA (R) — Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam left Tehran Friday after discussing a joint response to the Gulf crisis with Iranian officials, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported. "In our meetings with Iranian officials we stressed the need for withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait and the return to power of the legal government," he quoted Khaddam as saying before leaving Tehran. "Iran and Syria believe that they would adopt a joint strategy to promote their goals," Khaddam added, describing his talks in Tehran as positive.

China reiterates opposition to 'big power' role in Gulf

BEIJING (R) — China Friday reiterated its opposition to U.S. military involvement in the Gulf but told a visiting Iraqi official Baghdad should withdraw its troops from Kuwait as soon as possible. Zhu Rongji, a senior Communist Party official, expressed China's position in talks with Adnan Saleh, a senior member of Iraq's ruling Arab Baath Socialist Party, the official New China News Agency said. It was the first reported official contact between China and Iraq since Kuwait was invaded Aug. 2.

Sabah in Paris

PARIS (R) — Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the foreign minister of the toppled emiri government of Kuwait, arrived Friday for talks with the French government which says its second aircraft carrier could sail for the Gulf within 72 hours if necessary.

Europeans ask Arab League's help

TUNIS (R) — The European Community asked the Arab League Friday help ensure the safety of its nationals in Iraq and Kuwait, diplomats said. They said the request was handed to the Arab League's Deputy Secretary General Adnan Omrane by the ambassadors in Tunis of Italy, France and the Netherlands. It also asked the league to help ensure community nationals were free to leave Iraq.

Bush orders Iraq blockade, but faces U.N. opposition

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — The Gulf crisis moved closer to armed conflict Friday after President George Bush ordered U.S. warships to immediately begin using force if necessary to enforce a blockade of Iraq and Kuwait. Iraq said earlier this week that any attempt by U.S. or other forces to stop its flow of oil, food or other goods would be an act of aggression amounting to "flagrant piracy" and would be met with swift retaliation.

"If they (cargo ships) refused to stop, then we will use the measures necessary to ensure that they comply with the sanctions," Defence Department Spokesman Pete Williams said of Bush's order, which took effect at midnight GMT Thursday. "Shipping sources in Saudi Arabia said there were now four tankers waiting off Yanbu. None had been allowed to enter the terminal. They were the two Iraqi vessels, the 357,100-tonne Norwegian supertanker Hansa Vega and the 75,274-tonne Bulgarian vessel Mesta. An official aboard Hansa Vega, contacted by shore-to-ship telephone, said there was no movement at Yanbu, which was used to handle a third of Iraq's 2.7 million barrels per day in oil exports before the U.N. ban. The official said Saudi Arabian

port authorities had rejected the ship's requests to enter. The last tanker loaded at Mu'ajit on the day of the invasion. As the Gulf crisis caused by Iraq's take-over of Kuwait entered its third week, Saudi Arabia reportedly turned away another Iraqi tanker trying to break the oil embargo and the U.S.-led multinational force intensified its military buildup and economic embargo. The Soviet Union also said Friday it was willing to send troops in the Gulf if the United Nations approved a multinational force. But the effort to squeeze Iraq with a trade embargo appeared to hit a snag in United Nations when Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said military enforcement of U.N. sanctions against Iraq requires U.N. approval. A special Security Council committee on the embargo was scheduled to meet privately Friday, and Canadian diplomats said they intended to discuss how the committee would monitor compliance beyond official government statements. U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney was bound for Riyadh on Friday to visit U.S. troops standing guard in the Saudi desert. Bush expressed pessimism Thursday that Iraqi forces would end their occupation in Kuwait. Bush has ordered U.S. naval commanders to use "the minimum force necessary" to intercept shipments to and from Iraq. That could include

firing across the bow to halt a ship. Gulf-based shipping executives reported Friday that Saudi authorities refused to permit an Iraqi tanker to take on oil from Iraq's pipeline at the Saudi Red Sea port of Yanbu. The tanker was identified as the 80,000-ton Al Fao, said the sources who spoke on condition of anonymity. Another Iraqi tanker, Al Qadisiyah, tried to load up at the terminal Sunday night. U.N. spokeswoman Nadia Younes said the U.N. chief, despite his opposition to military action, and not withdrawn earlier remarks on the right of nations to act in self-defence, which the U.S. has used as justification for a possible blockade in the Gulf. Perez de Cuellar said last Monday that a blockade could not be considered a U.N. action but also noted countries had the right to invoke a U.N. Charter provision on self-defence. But he did not say when actions relating to "self-defence" impinge on actions necessitating U.N. authorisation. Washington has said that a request from Kuwait for help gave foreign forces the right to intercept ships in the Gulf. Speaking at a news conference Thursday in Lima, the U.N. chief's comments appeared to come down on the side of numerous Security Council

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Moscow ready to join 'U.N. force' in Gulf Gorbachev warns of chain reaction from Gulf crisis

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev called Friday for a political solution to the Gulf crisis, which he said "threatens a perilous chain reaction endangering the whole world community." TASS news agency said Gorbachev branded the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait as "treacherous" and a blatant violation of international law and the United Nations Charter. The Soviet Union, until recently Iraq's main arms supplier, would like Arab leaders to resolve the crisis. Moscow stopped weapons deliveries to Baghdad in protest against the invasion. "For us to react in a different way would have been even more unacceptable as the act of aggression was committed with the help of our weapons, which we agreed to sell to Iraq only to maintain its defence capability," TASS quoted him as saying.

The Soviet leader, on vacation on the Black Sea coast, was speaking to participants in a military exercise in the Odessa district. "We have witnessed an act of treachery and a blatant violation of international law and the U.N. Charter—in short, a violation of everything the world community now pins its hopes on," Gorbachev said in his strongest condemnation yet of the Iraqi invasion. "We count on the reason and responsibility of Arab states and their regional organisations. We rely on the powers and rights of the United Nations and the Security Council. "It is important not only to stop military activities and prevent them from spreading to other countries. It is important to restore respect for international law."

Eduard Shevardnadze said earlier Friday that the Soviet Union would send troops to the Gulf if the United Nations calls for a multinational military force to solve the crisis. The statements of Gorbachev and Shevardnadze intensified Kremlin pressure on Iraq by bringing the Soviet Union closer to agreeing with the United States on an armed, united front to halt Iraqi "aggression." That could put American and Soviet soldiers on the same side for the first time since World War II. Shevardnadze said he was discussing the crisis with U.S. Secretary of State James A. Baker almost daily by telephone. Two weeks ago, the two men joined in an unprecedented case of superpower cooperation to call for a worldwide arms embargo against Iraq.

Soviet Foreign Minister

(Continued on page 5)

Iraq frees 1,000 PoWs, starts troop withdrawals

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq freed 1,000 Iranian prisoners of war (PoWs) Friday and began withdrawing troops from Iranian territory in an effort to settle the conflict with its neighbour to focus on the escalating confrontation with the United States. Iran announced it was freeing an equal number of Iraqi prisoners Friday to reciprocate for Baghdad's peace initiative. Initially, Tehran did not say how many Iraqis will be released. But after the arrival of the Iranian PoWs in Iran, Foreign Ministry spokesman Morteza Arzamani said 1,000 Iraqis will be repatriated Friday.

At 12:30 p.m. the first batch of freed Iranian PoWs arrived in Qasr-e-Sibirin, an Iranian border town decorated with the green Islamic republic flag, portraits of the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and colourful ribbons and flowers. The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said a long line of government officials, led by Vice-President Hassan Habibi, welcomed the men, as loudspeakers blared patriotic songs and military tunes. The director-general of legal affairs at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, Akram Al Wiri, said 1,000 Iranian PoWs who had spent the

longest period in detention had been brought to Baghdad from Mosul by special train. International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) officials had questioned them to check their identity and make sure they wished to return to Iran, he added. The agency did not give details of the physical condition of the men, some held since the early days of the Gulf war which broke out in September 1980. But it said several buses and 40 ambulances were waiting to take

the men to quarantine, where they would undergo medical examinations for 72 hours. Tehran Radio said the released PoWs will be offered their old jobs back, and those who were jobless will be granted bank loans. Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani, in a message broadcast by Tehran Radio, told the freed men: "Your victorious, proud return has overjoyed millions of waiting hearts."

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His Majesty King Hussein Thursday holds talks with U.S. President George Bush at Kennebunkport

King's talks with Bush sought to avert conflict — Crown Prince

AMMAN (J.T.) — The main purpose of Thursday's meeting between His Majesty King Hussein and U.S. President George Bush was to avert the possibility of a military conflict in the Gulf through diplomacy, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Friday. "My perspective is that the two heads of state publicly restated their positions and then entered into an excellent round of personal diplomacy in which the two gentlemen excelled," the Crown Prince said in an interview with NBC Television. "I believe certainly that our fears and hopes, the fears of most of the Jordanian government and people that foreign military intervention has raised a great deal of concern in the region as a whole (and) in the Arab and Muslim world will effectively be (shifted) to other means in this phase and if we can get to an Arab and Muslim discussion of the crisis that swept off so much of international concern."

"We obviously have from the very beginning been concerned jointly about how to resolve the Iraq-Kuwait crisis. We adhered to the U.N. Security Council resolutions and I believe very clearly in terms of approach. Should the U.S. involve itself... with sanctions and military action. The point is that the (issue) is very hot in this part of the world and we sincerely hope that we recognise that we cannot solve the problem by military confrontation."

In answer to a question on international sanctions against Iraq, the Crown Prince said: "I would like to make it very clear that we adhered to all United Nations resolutions. These are United Nations resolutions and not resolutions imposed by individual members. Our approach have been pointed out very clearly to all governments concerned, including the European Council of Ministers yesterday that we are consulting with the secretary general of the U.N. over all aspects of adhering to this resolution, and clearly the plight of all peoples in the region is of concern to us — the Iraqi people, the Kuwaiti people, and let us hope effectively that with all the efforts to (keep) the diplomatic... manoeuvre open..."

Asked what he thought Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is like-

(Continued on page 4)

Indian foreign minister en route to Baghdad

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Indian External Affairs Minister Inder Singh Gujral arrived here Friday evening en route to Iraq in a mission aimed at securing safe passage for the 170,000 Indian nationals trapped in Kuwait and Iraq following Baghdad's take-over of Kuwait on Aug. 2. Gujral, who arrived here from Washington on commercial flights via London, said before leaving the U.S. Thursday night that he hoped to help ease the Gulf crisis, which not only threatens a war in the Middle East but also economic and financial calamity for India, which has extensive interests in the Gulf states. However, Gujral emphasised that he was neither a mediator nor a messenger and implied that India felt it was

not yet time for mediation. "I do not think that bridge is ready to cross... the concerned parties must make up their minds if they want to defuse (the crisis) or not," he told reporters in Washington. He said his "primary concern" was "to tell (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein to let my people come... and also try to see if better sense can prevail on all sides to see that the situation does not go to the flare point."

Gujral was expected to hold talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem, but it was not clear Friday evening whether His Majesty King Hussein or His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan would receive the Indian minister, who is scheduled to leave for Baghdad Saturday. Gujral, who assumed the ex-

ternal affairs portfolio for the first time in the government of Prime Minister V.P. Singh after serving in various previous cabinets, met with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Moscow and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Washington before arriving here.

In comments in Washington Thursday, the minister underlined the Indian anxiety over the Gulf situation. In light of the geographic and economic links between India and the Gulf, he said, "if, God forbid, something unfortunately goes wrong, it affects us in every possible way."

Statistics show that India imports more than half of its petroleum needs of which 50 per cent comes from Kuwait and Iraq. In addition, half of Indian oil purchases from the Soviet Union also flow into India under an exchange arrangement with Iraq.

The Indian expatriate communities in the Gulf states bring in much needed foreign currency to the country.

About 1,000 Indians passed through Jordan overland from Iraq and Kuwait following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. It is expected that anywhere between 70,000 to 90,000 of the Indians in Iraq and Kuwait might opt to leave the area as tension is mounting in the region, according to reports from the Gulf.

An Indian official said Air India had lined up several flights out of Amman to ferry home Indians reaching the Jordanian capital. In addition, a ship with a carrying capacity of 1,500 passengers is currently near Kuwait and it could be used to evacuate Indians if the Iraqi government grants permission, he said.

Palestinians stage pro-Iraq demonstration at Al Aqsa

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Muslim worshippers chanted pro-Iraq slogans and reportedly burned American flags after Friday noon prayers at Jerusalem's Al Aqsa Mosque. Israeli police watched from rooftops but did not interfere. The crowd dispersed peacefully after half an hour. The demonstration was the latest in a series of rallies in the occupied territories in support of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. Saddam has always been linked by Palestinians for his firm stand towards the West, but his popularity began to soar after he said earlier this week he would only pull out from Kuwait if the Israelis withdrew from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. About 10,000 worshippers attended the noon prayers at Al Aqsa, which stands side by side with the Dome of the Rock Mosque on Haram Al Sharif. In his sermon, the Al Aqsa preacher sharply criticised Saudi

Arabia for allowing American forces to land on its territory. "The Arab leaders are giving Muslim lands to the Americans," he said. "One day all Arab land will be in the hands of the Americans. This land is for Muslims and not for Americans." Following the prayers, hundreds of worshippers carrying Palestinian and green Islamic flags chanted "with Our soul, with our blood, we'll sacrifice for you, Saddam."

Reporters were confined to a rooftop overlooking parts of Haram Al Sharif, and could not see all the demonstrators. One of the protesters leaving the compound said American and Israeli flags were burned. The crowd responded by whistling and clapping, said the man. Leaders of the Palestinian uprising, meanwhile, issued a leaflet condemning pro-Western Arab states and declaring the "full support for the Iraqi people in confronting the imperialists."

The leaflet set aside Saturday as a "day of solidarity with Iraq through demonstrating and marching in every place in our land." Also Friday, the Israeli Peace Now movement placed ads in newspapers condemning the Palestinian support for Iraq. "We are disappointed by the enthusiastic Palestinian support for Saddam Hussein," the ad said. "The path of Saddam Hussein is the path of violence, threats and war. Support for him is support for the resolution of disputes between nations through force."

Peace Now and other Israeli left-wing groups in the past have met with Palestinian activists to find common ground for peace talks.

But several leading Israeli doves declared this week they would suspend all meetings until the Palestinians have reversed their pro-Saddam position.

Peace Now, founded in 1978 to urge the then Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin to conclude a peace treaty with Egypt, supports talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation and its demand for a Palestinian state.

It said cooperation with the 1.75 million Palestinians of the occupied territories was based on an understanding that peace and self-determination would be achieved only through negotiations.

"Support for (Iraq) is support for the resolution of disputes between nations through force," the letter said.

In the Shati refugee camps in the Gaza Strip about 1,500 people flooded the streets after prayers, waving Palestinian flags and pictures of Saddam, reporters said.

Palestinian leaders, trying to limit damage to their image in the West, have issued statements opposing Iraq's occupation of Kuwait but also condemning U.S. efforts to force Saddam to withdraw.

4,000 gather at Al Nasr to voice support for Iraq

By Ali Masarweh

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An enthusiastic nationalist atmosphere prevailed at a pro-Iraq rally held in the municipal square of Jabal Al Nasr Friday afternoon.

The rally, organised by the People's Committee for the Support of Iraq, the Jordanian National Committee and various other local committees, was attended by the Palestinian ambassador to Jordan, Al Tayeb Abdul Raheem.

Up to 4,000 people took part in the rally, chanting nationalist slogans and burning American flags.

"Siding with Iraq (in the current Gulf crisis) means backing the Palestinian uprising (intifada)," Abdul Raheem said.

"Now Syrian, Jordanian, Saudi and Palestinian brothers have to fight shoulder by shoulder against the imperialist enemy in the Gulf," he added.

Abdul Raheem further urged Palestinians living in Jordan not to allow "nationalist sentiments to escalate into fanaticism."

Other speakers also addressed the rally, describing King Fahd of Saudi Arabia as being the "traitor of the holy shrines" and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt as "a broker who served solely the imperialist ambitions of the West."

Mansour Murad, a member of the Lower House of Parliament, also delivered an emotional speech, saying that Iraq's stand had given the Arab Nation a new sense of pride and had preserved Arab honour.

"By standing up and revealing (U.S. President George) Bush to be a liar and by resisting Western imperialist aggression against the Arabs, Saddam (Hussein) has picked up Gamal Abdul Nasser's call for Arab unity," Murad said.

He called on the Jordanian government to distribute weapons among the people and provide them with the necessary military training to defend Jordan against any aggression.

The speakers at the rally had to shout into the microphones to make themselves heard as the crowd, composed mainly of residents of the Jabal Al Nasr area, incessantly chanted pro-Iraq and pro-Palestinian slogans.

"What we Arabs need now is a strong, all-uniting leader; Saddam has those qualities and should therefore be supported," an activist at the rally told the Jordan Times.

Similar pro-Iraq rallies were held in various other Jordanian towns and cities and more are expected to be held during the coming days.

Egyptian beef-up boosts Arab contingent to 6,000

NICOSIA (R) — The 2,000 Egyptian troops flown to Saudi Arabia Thursday bring the foreign Arab contingent in the multinational force defending the kingdom to 6,000.

Egypt, with 5,000 men and Morocco with 1,000, are part of a Gulf force eventually expected to top 125,000 and backed by 500 warplanes and 70 warships.

They will join a Saudi force of 66,000 men and some 180 combat aircraft confronting an estimated 150,000 to 200,000 Iraqi troops with hundreds of tanks and warplanes in Kuwait.

Iraq has a million men under arms with 5,500 main battle tanks and over 500 combat jets.

Baghdad's redeployment of troops from its eastern flank with Iran, which began Friday, could lead to a significant increase in the numbers facing Saudi Arabia.

The following is a breakdown of foreign forces in or committed to the defence of "fortress Saudi Arabia."

The United States: 60,000 men including 25,000 already in Saudi Arabia and 35,000 sailors and airmen aboard the battleship Wisconsin and four carrier groups totalling 45 warships in or on route to the Gulf. At least 100 F-15 fighters and 48 F-16 ground attack jets already in Saudi Arabia plus some 300 warplanes with the carrier groups. Defence Department officials say at least 50,000 more troops are being shipped or flown to the Gulf.

France: 3,500 men aboard four warships already in the Gulf and aircraft carrier Clemenceau and two support ships on route. Combat planes, warships and troops from Djibouti and the Indian Ocean bring the total strength available in the crisis zone to 3,500 men.

Britain: Four warships plus three minesweepers and three support ships on route, 12 Tornado fighters in Saudi Arabia and 12 Jaguar jets in Oman, 250 support troops.

The Netherlands: Two frigates on route to the Gulf.

Belgium: Two minehunters plus support vessel on route to Mediterranean for possible despatch to the Gulf.

West Germany: Bonn has sent three minesweepers, two minesweepers and a tender to the Eastern Mediterranean.

Australia: Two warships on route to the Gulf.

The Soviet Union: Two

warships and a supply ship in the Gulf.

Egypt: 5,000 men already in Saudi Arabia.

Morocco: 1,000 troops already in Saudi Arabia.

Syria: Damascus has said it will send troops but not announced numbers.

Pakistan: Army sources say some 5,000 Pakistani troops will be despatched to Saudi Arabia.

Bangladesh: Military sources say two brigades totalling 5,000 troops will join the multinational force.

Turkey has reinforced the second army group defending its southern borders by 10,000 men, bringing total strength in the area to 70,000. U.S. strike bombers and F-16s are also based in Turkey within striking distance of Iraq.

The United States is pulling some of its merchant ships out of reserve to ferry cargo to American forces in the Gulf, U.S. officials said.

U.S. Transportation Secretary Samuel Skinner did not say how many ships were being readied in harbours in Portland, Oregon, and Seattle, Washington, but industry experts put the number at 22.

He said 96 ships were in the ready reserve fleet in partial dry dock status but could be ready for military cargo duty in five to 10 days.

Skinner added at a news conference that U.S. Maritime Union told him they would find adequate civilian crews to man the ships as needed.

He also said he was pleased with the response of the U.S. airline industry to commit their commercial aircraft to carry troops to the Gulf, if needed.

Commercial airlines are available to the U.S. military under the civilian air reserve fleet programme to be used for military emergencies.

Skinner said airline officials told him the industry so far had been able to meet military airlift needs and would provide more, even "if that means cancelling flights, diverting commercial aircraft from commercial flights to military flights."

Shevardnadze: Gulf tension could explode

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said Friday that tensions in the Gulf could explode and be urged all countries to pursue diplomatic efforts for a settlement.

"No one can guarantee there will not be an explosion in the region — not the Soviet Union, not the United States, not Europe," Shevardnadze told reporters before talks with visiting West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

"It seems to me we must work in various directions," he added. A Soviet envoy is now touring Middle Eastern capitals.

Shevardnadze said Arab countries, "if they act in unity," could make an important contribution to resolving the crisis caused by Iraq's takeover of Kuwait two weeks ago.

The Soviet Union has said it prefers a political solution to a military solution to the Gulf crisis.

Shevardnadze said the "adoption of collective measures, above all through the United Nations Security Council, is an important condition for the settlement of the Iraq-Kuwait conflict."

Moscow had been a close ally of Baghdad and supplied most of the arms used by Iraq in its takeover.

It has since cut off arms deliveries, but has maintained diplomatic contacts.

The Defence Ministry newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda said it was suspicious of Washington's motives in sending forces to Saudi Arabia.

"Is it really necessary to concentrate such massive forces and arms in the area?" the newspaper asked.

"Any possible military conflict between the U.S. and Iraq clearly serves Israeli interests, inasmuch as attention is deflected from a solution of the Palestinian problem," Krasnaya Zvezda said.

The Soviet Union has started evacuating its citizens from Iraq in road convoys. Iraqi authorities in Kuwait have ordered British and U.S. citizens to assemble in hotels in Kuwait City, stirring fears they could be interned.

A Syrian newspaper said Friday that the Gulf crisis could explode unless Iraq quickly withdrew its troops from Kuwait.

"Would those people who are playing with time remember that time is not in anyone's favour," the official Al Thawra daily said.

"Each moment which passes without an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait brings the region nearer to a big explosion."

Commenting on Turkish press reports that the aircraft would be based at Incirlik, 800 kilometres west of the border with Iraq, he said: "These are imaginary assumptions."

"My current understanding is that they did not go to Incirlik," a U.S. embassy source in Ankara said.

The twin-engine, swallow-tail planes are flown by a single pilot and their composite construction materials and shape help them to absorb or harmlessly deflect enemy radar signals.

Turkey, the only NATO-member country bordering Iraq, has joined U.S. sanctions against Baghdad.

U.S. F-111 strike bombers, already deployed in Incirlik, were holding routine training flights, the base spokeswoman said.

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MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Turkish foreign minister to visit Tehran

ANKARA (AP) — Foreign Minister Ali Bozer will pay a two-day official visit to Tehran beginning Saturday, it was announced here Friday. Bozer was originally scheduled to visit Tehran in June, but the visit was then postponed, officially because of the devastating earthquake in Iran. But government sources then explained that the real reason was Turkey's unhappiness over anti-Turkish reports in the Iranian press following the screening in Turkey of an American film lampooning the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. Different interpretations of Islam's role in public life has caused strains between neighbouring Turkey and Iran in the past. A written Foreign Ministry announcement said Bozer and his Iranian counterpart Ali Akbar Velayati would discuss regional and international developments and bilateral issues.

Israeli kill two in Lebanon

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli troops killed two guerrillas in Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon Friday, the army said. No Israelis were hurt. The Voice of Lebanon radio station said the two were Palestinians. The clash took place near Qantara, eight kilometres from the Israeli border.

Abu Dhabi sheikhs volunteer for the army

DUBAI (R) — Eight sheikhs from Abu Dhabi have joined the army to help defend the emirate against any possible invasion, the Gulf News said Friday. The newspaper said eight sons of Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan, ruler of Abu Dhabi and president on the United Arab Emirates, joined up after the government called for volunteers following Iraq's take-over of Kuwait Aug. 2. UAE military sources said that thousands of people were responding to the plea for volunteers.

Ethiopian plane commandeered to Aden

SAN'A (AP) — Two passengers on an Ethiopian airliner hijacked the aircraft to Aden Thursday, where they were overpowered by security forces and arrested, the interior ministry announced. A statement from the ministry read over the state-run television said that one of the plane's security men was injured while overpowering the hijackers after the plane landed in the Red Sea port city. The Ethiopian "D-6" plane was on an internal flight when it was seized, the statement said. The plane with 20 passengers aboard returned to Ethiopia after the incident, it said. The two hijackers will be prosecuted, the statement added. It did not give the identities of the hijackers but they were believed to be Ethiopians. Several military aircraft from Ethiopia have defected across the Red Sea to Yemen. Eritrean opposition groups fighting for independence from Addis Ababa have political offices in Yemen.

Saudi airliners bring Egyptians home

CAIRO (R) — Two Saudi airliners flew into Cairo Friday carrying hundreds of Egyptian workers who fled the Iraqi take-over of Kuwait to Saudi Arabia, the Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported. The two Jumbo jets brought more than 700 Egyptians who had been stranded at the Saudi-Kuwaiti border since escaping through the desert. A third plane was expected later on Friday, the agency said. Thousands of Egyptians have already returned home by land via Jordan either through Saudi Arabia or Iraq. About 150,000 Egyptians were working in Kuwait before the take-over on Aug. 2.

Philippines to file protest with Iraq

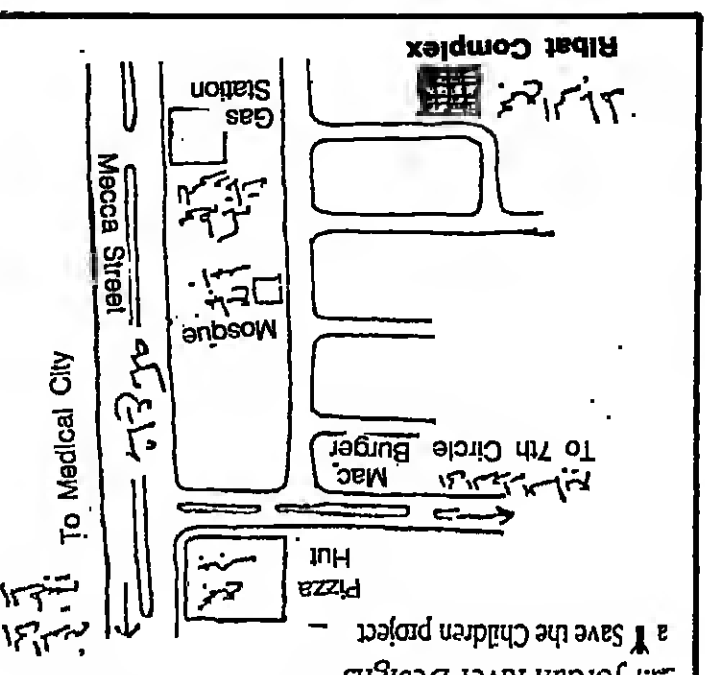
MANILA (AP) — President Corason Aquino said Friday the Philippines will file a diplomatic protest against alleged abuses by Iraqi soldiers of Filipino workers in Kuwait. Aquino said the department of foreign affairs will file the protest with the Iraqi embassy in Manila to remind it of Baghdad's assurances that Filipinos would be safe in Kuwait. There have been numerous news reports of rapes, looting and other abuses by Iraq's troops of foreigners, including Filipinos, trapped in Kuwait. Her spokesman, Adolfo Azuma, said Aquino had asked Philippine embassies in the Middle East and the International Committee of the Red Cross to gather information about these abuses before filing a "protest in specific terms." On Thursday, 271 Filipinos who fled from Kuwait by crossing Jordan arrived in Manila.

Israeli linked to Colombian drug murder

TEL AVIV (AP) — An attorney for a reserve Israeli army colonel denied Thursday that his client helped Colombian cocaine traffickers murder a leading presidential candidate. A report released Wednesday by Colombia's Department of Administrative Security, or secret police, said that Yair Klein was a "mercenary, narco-terrorist instructor and presumed accomplice" in the murder Aug. 18 of candidate Luis Carlos Galan. Klein's attorney, Igal Shapiro, told Israeli army radio his client was not involved. "This has no truth whatsoever," Shapiro said. "This report is a delayed move by people who have a lot of imagination. After all, now he (Klein) has become a hit ... a scapegoat." The murder of Galan, the leading presidential hopeful in the ruling liberal party, led to a war between the government and the Medellin cocaine cartel.

U.S. quits NATO exercise in Norway

OSLO (R) — The United States has decided to withdraw all 5,500 troops from a NATO exercise in Norway next month because of force deployments to the Gulf, Norwegian defence officials said Friday. The withdrawal from "Teamwork 90" follows an announcement that 6,500 U.S. troops were being withdrawn from another NATO exercise in September in Denmark and northern Germany. "The situation in the Gulf ... has made them (the Americans) withdraw their forces from Teamwork 90," said Hans Oestrem, spokesman with Norway's defence command, southern Norway. He said the exercise would go ahead as none of the nine other nations involved had pulled out.



Under the Patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein

THE HANDICRAFT SUMMER EXHIBITION

quilts leather handbags beachbags
collectors' dolls picture frames olive oil soap

Thursday, 9 - Saturday 18 August, 1990
11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. at Al Ribat Center

U.S. women soldiers give a culture shock to Saudis

By Dana Kennedy
The Associated Press

THE WOMEN among the 50,000 American soldiers in Saudi Arabia are likely to be a disturbing if not threatening presence in a culture where women cannot drive, vote, sit in a theatre with a man or even show their face and hair.

The Saudi kingdom has the most conservative and rigid Islamic way of life of all the Arab countries. Most Westerners there are employees of Western companies who are kept isolated from the rest of the country.

U.S. women soldiers said Wednesday that Saudi men react with dismay and occasional hostility when they see them doing such non-combat jobs as repairing airplanes and driving trucks or, in at least one case, giving orders to men.

"I don't think they disagree with what we're doing," said a Virginia sergeant whose name was withheld in keeping with the media ground rules. "I think they're more like shocked: 'There's an American woman. She's doing what men are doing...'"

The U.S. troops may pose a significant outside influence that

may be hard to control.

"It's a breaking of the hermetic seal that surrounded Saudi Arabia since it was founded in the 1920s," said Richard Bulliet, a professor of Middle Eastern studies at Columbia University. "What happens to the Saudi foot soldier whose world view of women is quasi-human, when he sees a woman making an arrest?"

The U.S. buildup includes women truck drivers, communications specialists, technicians and aircraft crew chiefs. The Pentagon would not give specific numbers.

Some experts warned against allowing U.S. troops much access to the average Saudi, who lives in a culture where one recent topic of conversation was whether beheadings should be televised. (So far, they have not been.)

"It would be a big mistake if our soldiers were allowed to mix too much," said Lenore Martin, a fellow at Harvard University's Centre for Middle Eastern Studies.

"We really have to see our forces separate because the stability of the government is involved. One of the main reasons the Saudis haven't given us bases before is the fear of being too closely Westernised in order to

protect the fundamentalist regime and way of life."

Though Saudi men cannot drink alcohol and must adhere to a rigid dress code, among other regulations, it is Saudi women who live an especially restricted life.

When women go outside, their clothing must cover almost all of their bodies and faces. Women must use separate beaches and theatres. They are allowed an education but can attend only segregated classes. Saudi wives cannot ask for divorces and are strictly limited in their right to own property.

"American troops are totally incompatible with the way of life in Saudi Arabia," said Bulliet. "I have no idea who's going to get disgusted first — the Americans with Saudi behaviour or the Saudis with the Americans."

The Virginia sergeant, an F-15 fighter ground crew chief, said Saudi men stop work and stare when she tells crewmen what to do. She said Saudi men reacted so strongly when another ground crew woman peeled off her shirt to work in a T-shirt underneath that a U.S. sergeant told her to put it back on.

"They got very emotional ab-

out that," the sergeant said. "They made a lot of physical movements. I think they asked the sergeant to make her put her shirt back on."

American troops were briefed on Saudi culture in one of several booklets distributed before shipping out.

"You will seldom see women outside the home," reads one. "It is considered impolite to inquire about a man's wife or his female children. Men should not show any interest in Arab women. Do not photograph or stare at them. Arab women barely touch upon greeting a man and they shake hands using fingertips only."

But the Saudis' knowledge of the Western way of life may be less detailed. The information they glean from Saudi television, where prayers are broadcast five times daily along with readings from the Koran, is not likely to prepare them.

"The fact that there are women in the U.S. military will be regarded as a very unusual and perhaps disgraceful thing by the clergy in Saudi Arabia," said Gary Sick, a Middle Eastern specialist at Columbia and a member of the National Security Council during the Carter administration.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77311-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:45	Programme review
15:55	Children programme
17:30	Educational programme
18:00	News Summary
18:10	Local programme
19:00	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:00	Programme review
21:30	Local programme
23:00	News in Arabic
23:10	Arabic play
PROGRAMME TWO	
15:30	Le Monde Est a Vous
15:45	News in French
15:55	Documentary
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Joint Account
21:00	Local programme
21:30	Classic Music
22:00	News in English
22:30	Feature film: "Shooting Stars"
PRAYER TIMES	
04:33	Fajr
05:56	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:39	Dhuhr
16:18	Maghrib
19:22	'Asr
20:46	Isha

JORDAN TIMES DAILY TELEPHONE DIRECTORY AND CALENDAR

Aqaba	26 / 39
Deserts	20 / 37
Jordan Valley	25 / 38

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 32, Aqaba 39. Humidity readings: Amman 22 per cent, Aqaba 22 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:	
Dr. Jamal Abu Baker	746425
Dr. Tayseer Khazir	606837
Firas pharmacy	681912
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asena pharmacy	637025
Nasroukh pharmacy	623672
Al Salan pharmacy	636759
Yacoub pharmacy	646495
Shmeisani pharmacy	637660

IRBID:	
Dr. Mizen Abu Baker	(—)
Al Sharara' pharmacy	(982388)

ZARQA:	
Dr. Khalil Abu Hussein	(—)

Khalifeb pharmacy	985417
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EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue	630941
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	897228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	943402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Priest Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	897467
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone:	
Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	515615
Electric Power	515615

Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	06-83200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	06-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	513813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn.	642816
Abdel Maternity, J. Amn.	642412
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	66417114
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Musasher Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/57
Al-Ahli, Abdali	6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajir	777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	775111/26
Army, Marks	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	60224930
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)991071
Uta Sina Hospital	(09)985732
IRBID:	
Princess Beama Hospital	(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)272775
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital	(02)247100

AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	(09)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (09)53209.5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

05:45	Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
10:30	Damascus (RJ)
10:15	Aqaba (RJ)
10:29	Debar (RJ)
10:30	New Delhi (RJ)
10:30	Zagreb, Cairo (RJ)
10:30	Beirut, Beirut (RJ)
10:55	Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)
17:00	Montreal, New York (RJ)
18:10	London (RJ)
19:10	Frankfurt (RJ)



ARAB BANK

Profile

Arab Bank was registered on May 21, 1930 in Jerusalem - Palestine, under the Palestinian Companies' Law. The Bank started operations on July 14, 1930 with a paid-up capital of Palestinian pounds 15,000. Today, equity is around US\$800 million. In 1948, Arab Bank General Management was moved to Amman - Jordan, and later the Bank was incorporated in Jordan as a public shareholding company. Currently, Arab Bank and its 12 subsidiaries and affiliated companies have a worldwide and diversified network of more than 270 branches. The Bank operates in 45 countries covering the Arab world and the major financial centres around the globe. Arab Bank is the leading non-government financial institution in the Arab world and is ranked among the largest international banks in terms of equity, earnings and assets.

The Bank, through its branches and subsidiaries, is engaged in providing a wide variety of financial services to individuals, corporate and institutional customers, government agencies, and other financial institutions. These services include retail banking, private banking, trade financing, merchant banking, commercial real estate lending and international banking.

At the end of June 1990, Arab Bank group's equity came to 6.1% of Total assets. The capital adequacy ratio for the Group, measured according to the Basle Committee rule, was around 14%. Moreover, total equity corresponded to more than 20% of the loan portfolio, placing the Bank in a very solid and sound financial position.

Traditionally, Arab Bank employed a prudent asset management policy which is centered on selecting a prime loan portfolio and, at the same time, maintaining high liquidity. At the end of June, 1990, the Group liquidity ratio (Cash in hand and at banks and marketable securities to total assets) amounted to 65%.

During the first half of 1990, Arab Bank continued its well planned and balanced growth. Despite a decline of 17.3% in the exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar against the U.S. dollar, total assets of the Group advanced to US\$ 13.1 billion, an increase of 2%.

Most of the Bank's external sources of funds are composed of stable customers' deposits which give the Bank ample room to manage its assets efficiently and reflect the customers' longstanding confidence and loyalty. Total deposits at the end of June 1990 reached US\$12.1 billion. The geographical distribution in percent of the Group's deposits was as follows: Jordan 11%, Middle East and North Africa excluding Jordan 26%, Europe 51%, Far East 4%, and North America 8%.

As the 21st century is approaching, Arab Bank looks at the future with great optimism and determination. The Bank plans to continue to play a leading role in the economies of the Arab world and at the same time it will endeavour to enhance its position as a major financial institution in the international markets.

ARAB BANK GROUP Balance Sheet as of 30 June 1990 and 1989

Assets	30/06/90 US\$ ('000)	30/06/89 US\$ ('000)
Cash in hand and at banks	7,576,159	7,569,351
Securities and investments	917,549	723,708
Loans and advances	3,944,248	3,954,315
Customers' liability on acceptances	61,588	81,256
Investments in associated companies	234,927	184,504
Premises and equipment	74,893	68,382
Accrued interest receivable	123,237	121,232
Other assets	192,591	160,351
Total Assets	13,125,192	12,863,099
Customers' liability on Guarantees and letters of credit	2,398,505	1,864,731
Total	15,523,697	14,727,830

Liabilities	30/06/90 US\$ ('000)	30/06/89 US\$ ('000)
Deposits and other accounts	12,106,214	11,816,016
Acceptances	61,588	81,256
Accrued interest payable	94,443	107,369
Other Liabilities	65,167	91,980
Total Liabilities	12,327,412	12,096,621
Shareholders' Equity		
Capital	86,939	86,939
Statutory reserve	77,450	76,097
General reserve	478,205	403,115
Voluntary reserve	141,379	126,569
Reserves with associated companies	160,499	147,568
Retained earnings	538	38,045
Total	945,010	878,333
Translation adjustments	(147,230)	(111,855)
Total Shareholders' Equity	797,780	766,478
Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	13,125,192	12,863,099
Guarantees and letters of credit	2,398,505	1,864,731
Total	15,523,697	14,727,830

Net profit for the periods ended June 30, 1990 and June 30, 1989 was included in "Other liabilities".

ARAB BANK PLC Balance Sheet as of 30 June 1990 and 1989

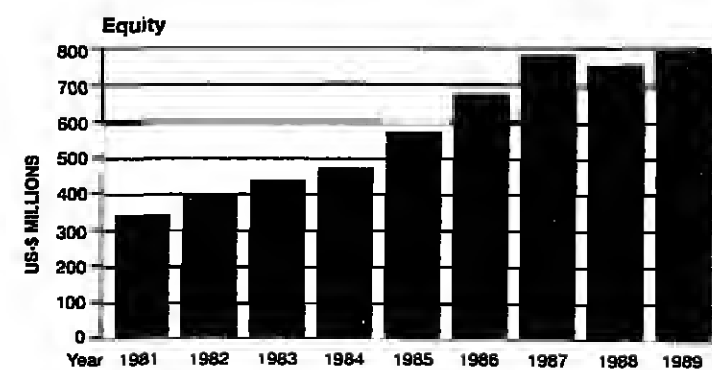
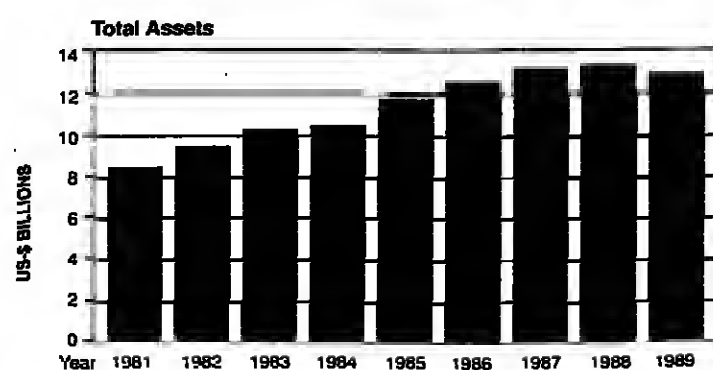
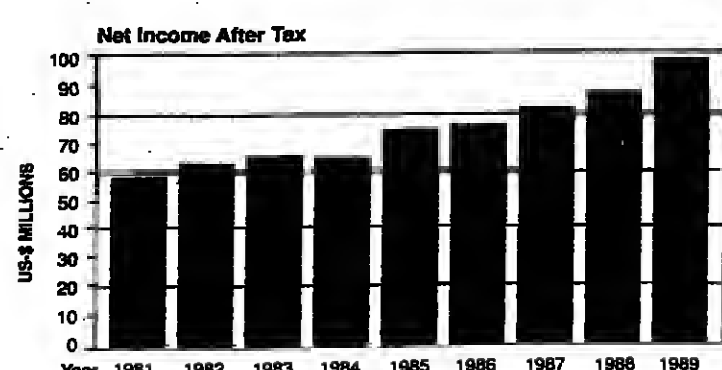
Assets	30/06/90 J.D. ('000)	30/06/89 J.D. ('000)
Cash in hand and at banks	3,220,527	2,648,223
Securities	482,944	334,513
Loans and advances	2,429,517	2,029,212
Customers' liability on acceptances	41,141	46,168
Investments	44,420	36,491
Premises and equipment	34,734	28,121
Accrued interest receivable	81,786	68,882
Other assets	88,417	53,469
Total Assets	6,423,486	5,245,079
Customers' liability on Guarantees and letters of credit	1,499,092	975,776
Total	7,922,578	6,220,855

Liabilities	30/06/90 J.D. ('000)	30/06/89 J.D. ('000)
Deposits and other accounts	6,031,521	4,897,869
Acceptances	41,141	46,168
Accrued interest payable	62,693	61,005
Other Liabilities	35,631	32,037
Total Liabilities	6,170,986	5,037,079
Shareholders' Equity		
Capital	22,000	22,000
Statutory reserve	22,000	22,000
General reserve	154,500	120,000
Voluntary reserve	54,000	44,000
Total Shareholders' Equity	252,500	208,000
Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	6,423,486	5,245,079
Guarantees and letters of credit	1,499,092	975,776
Total	7,922,578	6,220,855

Net profit for the periods ended June 30, 1990 and June 30, 1989 was included in "Other liabilities".

J.D. 1 = U.S.\$ 1.50 on 30/06/90 J.D. 1 = U.S.\$ 1.78 on 30/06/89

ARAB BANK GROUP



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View from Amman

By Kamel Abu Jaber

The Arabs and the West

WHAT HAVE we done? What have we done to deserve what the West is now preparing to do; and, sadly, with encouragement from some of the Arabs. Surely it was a sad thing to see an Arab state attacking another and just as surely Iraq should withdraw — as it twice indicated, but from Kuwait. But is the response now being prepared by the West, couched in sanctimonious rhetoric about the invasions of nations by nations really just in defence of Kuwait or something else?

Speedily the crisis was escalated from a regional inter-Arab conflict to an international one in which the Arabs, once again, and due to their misreading of Western intentions, became mere pawns in the hands of others. None of the Arab actors now, including Iraq has any control or say in the course of events to come. The decision is made elsewhere: in Tel Aviv, Washington, London, and other Western capitals.

The actions and the pronouncements emanating from these capitals, and their leaders in the West, clearly indicate that compromise is not on the agenda. And unwittingly, the Arab component of the equation is providing the excuse and the cover for the military action that is surely now being contemplated. The speed with which Iraq's initiative on Sunday Aug. 12, 1990 was rejected by President Bush and Israel was not only stunning but an indication of future intentions. President Bush said of the initiative, "...there is nothing of value in it." That is certainly not the attitude of someone looking for a way out. It tells of prior intentions, and resolve to resort to arms come what may. It may well have been an Iraqi positioning of its extreme demands; not an unusual phenomenon in a process of negotiations, which of course the United States knows, but it should have been listened to. It was the second time in a week that Iraq indicated its willingness to withdraw from Kuwait.

the first immediately after its military action and the second when it presented the initiative.

Why? I think that the reason is much greater than Kuwait or Iraq. We in Jordan have been cautioning, for quite some time now of the plan to "balkanise" and fragment the region of the Arab Fertile Crescent into a number of smaller principalities like the Gulf states, leaving Israel the dominant power in the region. Such a solution, if not welcome, is certainly not anathema to those around us in the region, Iran, Turkey, and Israel; nor is it an unwelcome development to the West. In the long run it would ensure the continued flow of cheap oil and will, once and for all, eliminate the possibility of any future challenge emanating from the region and its future leaders. OPEC will be domesticated and the constant rumblings from the region will be silenced forever. Israel would have a free hand; much freer than now!

This, I think is the reason behind what is taking place now: the redrawing of the map of the region. I also think that whatever Iraq may do now; short of total capitulation, and the delivery of President Saddam Hussein's head on a silver platter, would not be enough. I think that even this, at this stage is not enough. I say this in the hope that the other Arab leaders who think and act otherwise will reconsider. I also believe that even if they do reconsider it is also already too late and out of their hands.

An Arab folklore story goes that a goat was drinking water downstream from where a hungry looking wolf was drinking. He looked up and said, "you are muddying my water." She replied, "but Mr. Wolf can't you see I am downstream! How could I do that?"

A while later he looked up again and said, "you are drinking so much water you are not leaving me any." To which the goat replied, "but Mr. Wolf, you are at the source of the spring and I am downstream

drinking what you leave me." It was then that the wolf said, "look... quite frankly I am hungry and I am just looking for an excuse to eat you anyway."

As I was writing this I was also listening to Saudi Arabia radio station from Riyadh the Rahaheh, (an ancient one string violin of the Bedouins) music came from the very belly of Arabia, a sad Shuruki, eastern ballad of lamentation. And tears, for the first time in my life welled in my eyes. It was as if the poet-singer was already lamenting a nation about to be slaughtered. And then ironically the same station followed with another programme called Days from Islamic History relating the heroics of the great Arab commander Amr Ibn Al Aass in the Battle of Ajnadain with the Byzantines.

In my own way, after the second programme on the Battle of Ajnadain I felt elated. If death it must be, it must be, but we should go down, like the Mohican Red Indians still fighting in Canada. Nothing is cheery about our situation, we

are a people in trouble and there is no one to help. We here in Jordan have taken characteristically the honourable path. Not against Kuwait, or anyone else but in realising that what is going on goes beyond... way beyond Kuwait and that it smells of rotten and rotting oil. Why can't someone allow us more time? Is this a rhetorical question? Are we wrong here in Jordan in taking the step of maintaining ourselves as possibly the only link between Iraq and the world? Should we too draw our dagger and stab? What good would that do? May be we can still diffuse the situation and inject a sense of sanity.

It is then that I am reminded of another Arab folklore story where some one told the monkey, "I am going to make you ugly. The monkey, shook his head sadly and said, "In your eyes I am already ugly. What else can you do? I hope I am wrong! though the situation is so 'oilwellian' it is frightening.

Of choice and sanctions

SHOULD Jordan go along with the economic sanctions imposed by the U.N. Security Council against Iraq? This is a very difficult question to answer, because the Kingdom stands to lose whether it does or does not.

In case Jordan went along with the sanctions, economists estimate that it would lose close to \$2 billion annually, if not more. The country's economy has for so many years now been so enmeshed with the Iraqi economy. Almost 40% of Jordan's exports, save for phosphate, go to Iraq. The port of Aqaba had, during the eight years of the Iraq-Iran war and after, been used as a substitute for the port of Basra in Iraq. If Jordan closed the port in the face of Iraqi imports, thousands of Jordanian labourers and lorry drivers would lose their jobs. Some businessmen in Jordan have concluded long-term contracts with Iraq before the embargo and in turn committed themselves with international trade companies for the import of a great deal of various types of items. The thousands of people who will lose their jobs as a result will only add to the 100,000 or so unemployed Jordanians. Unless the world community provided Jordan with an equal amount to its loss, the country will face further hardships and economic and social instability. However, the most important factor that will affect Jordan's decision is the fact that the Jordanian people in the last two weeks have expressed their unequivocal support for Iraq and its leadership. For the government of Jordan to impose sanctions on Iraq will be to go against the will of the people.

On the other hand, if the government wished to act in accordance with the sentiments of the Jordanian people and forego the sanctions, the U.S., in the quest to strangle Iraq, will also blockade the port of Aqaba.

This action by the U.S. government will of course be in violation of the United Nations Resolution 661 and of international law and legitimacy. The U.N. charter stipulates that sanctions passed through a Security Council resolution are mandatory but are for individual states to apply. The charter requires a separate Security Council resolution authorising a military blockade to enforce sanctions. U.S. allies, notably France, and the Soviet Union, among other nations, are reluctant to join the U.S. in its steps to enforce the sanctions through a military blockade.

The Security Council is currently discussing the issue. Meanwhile, what choice do we in Jordan have?

If the choice was actually ours as a people, we would never go along with imposing sanctions against our brothers and sisters, the men, women and children of Iraq. But it is not a matter of choice for us as much as it is a question of honouring Jordan's obligations as both a member of the U.N. and at the same time a sister state of Iraq. Barring the illegal use of force against Iraq by any foreign or Arab forces, this means that we would abide by Resolution 661 if it is adhered to, in letter and spirit, by every member state of the U.N., on the understanding that the sanctions do not include food and medicine, and that these sanctions are implemented not one minute before the date set by U.N. rules and regulations. When it comes to making up for the loss of revenue from the Aqaba port activity and the export of non-essential items to Iraq, full compensation should be forthcoming, and people-to-people exchanges must not be severed. Iraq will certainly understand our situation, as it can make do without its import of our paint, plastic bottles and other non-essential commodities. But it remains incumbent on the Americans to also understand that Jordan will not accept their unilateral and illegal use of force in imposing sanctions — through blockades, interdictions and whatever.

Honouring and respecting international law and legality is a two-way street, and the U.S. should start with itself in adhering to international norms and U.N. resolutions. Credibility starts at home, first and foremost.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

The European Community is in a position to put an end to the ongoing American moves to escalate tension and aggravate the problem in the Gulf region, said Al Ra'i daily Friday. The land and naval forces amassing around Iraq and the hostile campaign launched against the Iraqi president are bound to increase the tension and make the situation more explosive, said the paper. The Europeans should follow in the footsteps of King Hussein in trying to defuse the tension and to end the crisis peacefully through further contacts with the United States which should be persuaded to abandon the use of force, the paper added. The blockade imposed by the United States on Iraq is by itself a violation of the United Nations charter and is not in harmony with the Security Council's resolution about sanctions on Iraq, the paper continued. If the Europeans understand the situation better now that they heard the views of Prince Hassan on Gulf crisis, they ought to do something constructive and help avert a catastrophe in the whole region, the paper said. Should the Europeans take some positive action and shoulder their responsibilities at this crucial moment, the paper said, this region and probably the whole world's economy will be saved.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily considers the Iraqi-Iranian rapprochement as the beginning of the creation of an Islamic economic and political front to confront the enemies of the Arab and the Islamic nations. Mahmoud Al Rimawi says that peace between the two neighbours could open the door for Iran to join the drive to fight the U.S.-Israeli alliance and adjust the balance of power in the Middle East. This is why the Israelis and the Americans have displayed their total dismay at Iraq's move to make peace with Iran, and explains the current Israeli campaign against Saddam Hussein's decision for an exchange of war prisoners and for ending the conflict on the basis of the Algiers Agreement of 1975, adds the writer.

Bush

(Continued from page 1)

members who question the U.S. navy's authority to enforce a U.N. embargo against Iraq.

Perez de Cuellar said that a blockade to enforce U.N. sanctions needed Security Council approval.

Since the council had not done so, he said that "any intervention whatever the country would not be in accordance with either the letter of the spirit of the U.N. Charter."

In other developments: — Japan said Friday it was weighing new military measures in response to the invasion of Kuwait. Foreign Ministry spokesman Tazuo Watanabe suggested Japan might rethink its policy against deploying equipment or personnel overseas, and could send Japanese minesweepers to the region.

Refugees who escaped Kuwait earlier this week said Kuwaiti city cracked with gunfire when darkness fell as Kuwaitis staged hit-and-run raids against the invaders. They claimed that the Iraqi forces still not been able to completely stifle resistance by Kuwaitis.

A West German prosecutor said Friday that seven people have been arrested in connection with the alleged delivery of a poison gas plant to Iraq. The prosecutor said the arrests came after several years of investigation.

An Iraqi cargo ship, reportedly carrying food, steamed through the Suez Canal towards the Red Sea Friday after being stranded at the waterway's entrance for three days, a canal authority official said. The 7,000-ton Zain Al Qaws was the first Iraqi vessel to transit the channel — the main route for European shipping to the region — since the United Nations imposed sanctions against Iraq Aug. 6.

U.S. Defence Department spokesman Pete Williams said Iraq has pursued its armed forces buildup in Kuwait and its troops there now number about 160,000. The Iraqis have ringed Kuwait City with an air-defence system, a U.S. official reported, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Iraq frees prisoners

(Continued from page 1)

Tehran Radio interrupted normal programming to announce that Iraqi troops have begun withdrawing.

The radio said Iranian officers monitoring the development reported the withdrawal got under way at 5 a.m. (0130 GMT).

IRNA quoted Sarmadi, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, as saying 10 hours later that the Iraqis had withdrawn from parts of a 425-square-kilometre chunk of the Ilam region.

Ilam is one of the central sectors of the 1,020-kilometre border. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein declared Wednesday he was ready to give in to all Iran's conditions for a formal end to the 1980-1988 Gulf war.

Iraqi news media said the concessions would free 30 army divisions to confront foreign forces sent to Saudi Arabia following Iraq's August 2 take-over of Kuwait. Saddam appealed to Iran to join in a holy war against the foreign intervention.

Iran says Iraq occupies more than 2,000 square kilometres of its territory. But the United Nations says the size of the occupied area is half of that.

Iraq has said it also planned to release all Iranian prisoners captured in the war in daily batches starting Friday. But no deadline was set for the completion of the release.

The ICRC has registered about 19,000 Iranian POWs in Iraq and about 50,000 Iraqis in Iran. But the U.N. estimates that both sides actually hold more than 100,000.

King's talks with Bush sought to avert conflict

(Continued from page 1)

a middle ground situation and... that we are trying to deescalate tension and avoid a war and ensure that all these humanitarian issues are addressed one by one.

In another interview, the Crown Prince reaffirmed that Jordan intends to enforce United Nations sanctions against Iraq.

"I think there should be no confusion at all. We have accepted the U.N. mandatory resolution, we have effectively started to wind down the movement of goods," the Prince said in an interview with Britain's Channel Four news television programme.

"If we have been accused of ambiguity I would just like to say that that is both unfair and deeply resented in this country because, war or peace, we are the country that stands to suffer the most," Prince Hassan said.

King returns home

The King returned home early Friday from the U.S. after his meeting with President Bush but reported no progress towards a diplomatic solution to the Gulf crisis.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King had explained Jordan's stand on the "dangerous crisis and its repercussions on the stability and security of this region and the world."

"The King stressed the keenness and determination of Jordan to pursue efforts to prevent any deterioration and find ways to stop the escalation of this crisis through cooperating with all the influential parties," Petra said.

Bush had, however, "asserted his declared positions on the crisis and the requirements for solving it," the agency said.

King Hussein had requested the meeting with Bush, viewed by many Arab leaders as a last chance for a peaceful resolution to the crisis caused by Iraq's Aug. 2 takeover of Kuwait.

"President Bush explained his country's position vis-a-vis the present crisis and the reasons which prompted his administration to send troops to the Gulf region and reaffirmed his country's declared stands on this issue," Petra said. President Bush voiced his full understanding of Jordan's situation and noted King Hussein's positive efforts to reach a peaceful settlement to the crisis and to avoid any military confrontation. President Bush also voiced his support for any efforts that could contribute to finding a peaceful settlement to the conflict," it added.

The two leaders also held an extensive meeting, attended by members of the Jordanian delegation accompanying the King, and senior American officials, including Secretary of State James Baker, National Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft and other White House officials, in addition to the American ambassador to Jordan.

Following the meeting, King Hussein said his meeting with Bush was an opportunity for both to get a better understanding of each other's position on the Iraq crisis.

"We have had a very frank, open, candid discussion," King Hussein told reporters following with meeting. "I believe we understand where we both stand. And at the same time, I am leaving with a clearer idea of what the president's thinking is..."

The following is an unofficial transcript of King Hussein's brief news conference.

Q: King Hussein, did you make any progress towards a solution?

Q: Your Majesty —

Q: Any progress towards a solution? King Hussein: First of all, let me clarify a few points. I came to the United States with the purpose of seeing and meeting personally an old friend of mine, President Bush. I've

had the opportunity to do so today. We have had a very frank, open, candid discussion. I believe we understand where we both stand. And at the same time, I am leaving with a clearer idea of what the president's thinking is, and I feel very happy with the warmth with which I was received, and also, at the same, with the opportunity that I had to have this meeting at this very, very crucial time.

Q: Sir, will you now stop supplies going through the port of Aqaba to the Iraqis? Will — are you — will you abide by the U.N. sanctions now against the Iraqis?

King Hussein: We — I am not suggesting that we have altered our position at all in this regard. The government of Jordan stated very clearly at the very outset following the Security Council resolution that it regarded these mandatory sanctions and measures as ones that the government of Jordan would respect, and this has been the case. So this is nothing new to talk about now.

Q: Your Majesty, did you bring a message from Saddam Hussein? And, if so, what did it say?

King Hussein: I did not bring any message. I am not talking on behalf of anyone in the area, but for myself as a person who has been in a position of responsibility over the last 38 years and with the interest and concern that this crisis hopefully will begin to de-escalate and we might find solutions to the many problems that are there now. I am concerned as any within the area. I have tried my utmost to see what could be done initially within an Arab context. And I'll continue to do my best to obtain a resolution of this problem.

Q: Did you make any progress or hear anything from the president that suggested a diplomatic solution might be closer?

King Hussein: I just had a chance to hear the president and have his point of view, which I appreciate very much indeed. It wasn't possible to communicate otherwise.

Q: Any agreement at all?

King Hussein: No. I mean just — there is nothing more that I can say. Q: Why is food getting through port of Aqaba?

King Hussein: I beg your pardon? Q: If you are in favour of mandatory sanctions, why is food getting through the port?

King Hussein: We are reaching the United Nations to find out exactly what these sanctions mean. This is what the government is doing at this stage, and I believe that, there are certain categories or areas where the situation is unclear.

Q: And you —

King Hussein: — We are appealing to these — Q: — consider food to be one of them then?

King Hussein: I beg your pardon? Q: And you consider food to be one of those exemptions then?

King Hussein: This is something we are trying to clarify with the — Q: Do you have any reason for hope at all, sir?

King Hussein: I suppose one has to have hope. Without hope, you can't get anywhere. And the dangers are such that it's unthinkable to contemplate the idea of giving up and not trying one's best to resolve this problem to the satisfaction of all and hopefully for a better future for all.

Q: Sir, will you visit Baghdad now? Q: Did anything happen at this meeting that gives —

Q: Will you go back to Baghdad? Q: — you hope, sir

King Hussein: I don't know. I have no plans in the immediate future. Q: Where will you go from here?

King Hussein: Back to my country. Q: So, Your Majesty, you acknowledge that there are some shipments now passing through the port of Aqaba —

King Hussein: There are no shipments — Q: There are no shipments?

King Hussein: — at the moment as far as I know. No. Q: Might you close that port altogether, sir, if —

King Hussein: It's our only outlet to the sea — to the sea, and it's our only outlet to the sea and to the rest of the world. And it's what we will — our port. We receive everything that we import into Jordan. We export a lot of our own phosphates and other things.

Q: Might you close the port to Iraqi commerce?

King Hussein: Sir, this is a question of detail; the government is dealing with it. I told you that we are adhering to this U.N.-Security Council sanctions. And we regret very much indeed that the situation has happened —

Q: You said you have a better understanding now of what the president's viewpoint is. Did you express your viewpoint? Did you ask for any understanding about the kind of economic situation, political situation, you're in? And what did —

King Hussein: Very frankly and honestly, the — we are passing through a very difficult economic and — situation in Jordan, and we are affected probably much more than any in this regard. But this, as I expressed to the president before I arrived here, was the least of my worries at the moment. I was concerned with the problem that all of us are worried about, both in my part of the world and here and everywhere in the world, and that is what I wanted to talk about and I have done.

Q: Did an offer emerge in help — Q: (Did the president?) offer any help?

Q: For Jordan by the — King Hussein: We didn't — I didn't discuss this.

Q: Any specific agreement — King Hussein: Thank you very much indeed.

Rush said in advance of Thursday's meeting that he would press King Hussein to deny Iraq access to Aqaba.

He was asked whether King Hussein had offered such assurances at the meeting and replied, "Yes."

However, Secretary of State Baker said Jordan "is seeking some guidance" about a provision in the U.N.-backed trade embargo that allows food for humanitarian purposes.

'Americans safe in Baghdad'

(Continued from page 1)

the Security Council later would decide if a U.N. blockade was required.

The full 15-member Security Council later convened behind closed doors to discuss Iraq's orders to British and Americans to assemble in hotels in Kuwait

and the problem of trapped foreigners of all nationalities.

U.N. officials said Friday that Italy, on behalf of the 12 members of the European Community, had requested that Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar send an envoy to the region to study the situation.

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



Jordanians willing to return to Kuwait or stay, work there

By Mariam M. Shakhin and Ali T. Masarweh
Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — Life has gone back to normal for Jordanian expatriates living in Kuwait since all professional establishments, with the exception of the banking sector, were reopened in the aftermath of Iraq's takeover of Kuwait Aug. 2.

While many Jordanians who came to spend their summer in Jordan used to bring in remittances, those crossing the Iraqi-Jordanian border in the wake of the takeover have come with nothing more than a few suitcases and Kuwaiti dinars whose value has dropped to about one tenth of their original one.

"We are safe, well and going back to work," said one employee of an insurance company in Kuwait city who came to Jordan three days ago. "The only problem is we have no money, our savings are all gone," he said.

Monetary problems seem to be the main difficulty facing Jordanian residents in Kuwait, since most banks are still closed and savings in Kuwait

dinars have thinned out with the devaluation.

Expatriates said most Jordanians residing in Kuwait had their savings in Kuwaiti dinars. Jordanians returning from Kuwait Thursday said there were some reports in Kuwait that banks might open Saturday, Aug. 18.

"We had food in the freezer and money in the bank when we left Kuwait," said one Jordanian who came to Jordan last Monday. "The food is still there, but the dinars are now worthless," he added.

Of the 420,000 Jordanian expatriates living in Kuwait, 250,000 are wage earners who regularly brought or send home remittances.

"Jordanians are being allowed to return back to work using their residency and work permits," another expatriate told the Jordan Times.

No Jordanians have applied for new work permits at the Kuwaiti Embassy in Amman since the Gulf crisis began, embassy personnel said Thursday.

There was a general consensus among Jordanians returning from Kuwait that harassment of Jordanians and

Palestinians living in Kuwait was non-existent and that reports of massive looting by Iraqi soldiers were false.

"Yes, there were some thefts and harassment of women initially, but not by Iraqi soldiers," said a Jordanian woman returning from Kuwait on her way to London. "The Iraqi soldiers," she explained, "have been told by Saddam that the punishment for theft or harassment of women is death and they know he is not joking, therefore it is very unlikely that the Iraqi army would get out of line."

One Jordanian returning from Kuwait who spoke to the Jordan Times said that "in the early days after the takeover if there was a theft or a crime being committed there was no one to call and no police to keep order and some people took advantage of that, but we did not hear or see the involvement of any Iraqi soldiers in those incidents."

Most expatriates said that they had planned to return to Kuwait and that most Jordanians were likely to remain in Kuwait as long as they were allowed to stay and work.

Jordan prepares for civil defence training

AMMAN (J.T.) — In line with the directives issued by His Majesty King Hussein last week, the Civil Defence Department (CDD) has embarked on the necessary preparations for holding civil defence training courses in various governorates and districts, according to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra.

In Zarqa a civil defence training course starts today, Aug. 18 for staff of the Vocational Training Centre in Hashimieh.

The CDD branch in Zarqa said it would be holding similar training courses in the various parts of the governorate, in accordance with a programme to be worked out by the department in cooperation with the municipalities, educational departments, clubs, community colleges and voluntary societies.

Director of CDD in Zarqa Lieutenant Colonel Abdul Rahman Al Naser said that the department had distributed questionnaires to the people willing to join the training, in preparation for drawing up a comprehensive training plan.

In Irbid Governorate, a two-week training course for 66 staff members from Hakama Vocational Training Centre commenced Thursday. Other training courses are being organised in the various parts of the governorate. In Balqa Governorate, plans

are underway to hold such training courses in the various parts and districts of the governorate. CDD has named Salt Secondary School for Girls the centre for women willing to join the civil defence training courses, and Uqba Ben Nafi Secondary School for boys the centre for men to train.

In South Shouneb plans are under way to train people on how to deal with emergency, extinguish fire and prepare health centres and clinics to receive emergencies.

In Maan Governorate the Civil Defence Committee has named four schools and a youth club for training purposes. The schools are Nussab Al Mazineh, Al Shamieh School for Girls, Sikket Al Hadid (railroad) School, and the Housing School for Girls. The committee called on people wishing to join in training to register their names at these centres.

In Karak Governorate preparations are under way to organise civil defence training courses. In Mazar district two places have been named for training purposes. In Qasr district, the district governor has decided to set up three training centres, two in Qasr town and the third in Al Aabbah Health Centre. The courses will commence today, Aug. 18.

Governorates rally in support of King's stand, Iraqi leader

AMMAN (Petra) — Thousands of citizens in Maan Governorate took part in demonstrations, following Friday prayers, to express support for His Majesty King Hussein and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

The demonstrators, who carried photos of King Hussein and Saddam Hussein, chanted pro-Islamic slogans, called for national unity and voiced condemnation of the foreign intervention in the Arab Gulf region.

The Egyptian community in the governorate and the city of Maan, which was bedecked with Jordanian and Iraqi flags, took part in the demonstrations and carried banners rejecting the foreign intervention.

In another development hundreds of Egyptian citizens in Irbid Governorate organised a demonstration after the Friday prayers through Irbid's main streets.

Participants in the demonstra-

tion carried banners condemning the foreign invasion of Arab land and calling for the unity of the Arab nation.

They also carried photos of King Hussein and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and praised the King's support of Iraq.

The participants chanted pro-Iraq slogans and affirmed that the Egyptian people are part of the Arab Nation.

In Jerash hundreds of citizens took part in demonstrations and marched through the streets of the Greco-Roman city carrying photos of His Majesty King Hussein and chanting pro-Iraq slogans.

Jerash Lower House of Parliament Deputies addressed the demonstrators and condemned foreign invasion of Arab lands.

Demonstrations also took place in Al Mashareh town in Deir Abu Saeed district. Several

citizens delivered speeches voicing pride in His Majesty's stands which reject foreign intervention in Arab affairs.

On Thursday Umm Qais Charitable Society organised a public rally in cooperation with the Public Committee for the Support of Iraq to express support for the Jordanian and the Iraqi leaderships.

Speakers at the rally lauded King Hussein's occasional stands and praised efforts exerted by him to contain the crisis in the Gulf region and solve it within the Arab context.

They also condemned foreign military intervention in the region and called for unifying the Arab ranks to confront conspiracies against the Arab Nation.

Participants in the rally sent cables to King Hussein and President Saddam expressing support for King Hussein's efforts and condemning foreign intervention in Arab affairs.

Highest number of crossings for a single day since Aug. 2; volume expected to rise further 17,000 arrive from Iraq

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Over 17,000 people of various Arab, Asian and African nationalities arrived in Jordan from Iraq Friday, clogging the main highway from the Al-Ruweished border post to Amman in what was predicted to be the front-runner of a massive exodus of at least a million people from Iraq in the next few days, officials and witnesses said.

Eight French nationals, four East Germans and one Canadian were among those arriving Friday, but informed sources said there was no indication of any mass flow of the estimated 15,000 Western Europeans and North Americans stranded in Iraq and Kuwait following Baghdad's takeover of Kuwait Aug. 2.

According to border officials and diplomatic sources, Baghdad appeared to have adopted a policy of issuing exit permits for Europeans and North Americans of Arab or Asian origin. "The eight French who crossed (Friday) were of Maghreb (North African Arab) origin and the Canadian is of Palestinian origin," the official noted. He could not confirm reports that the three East Germans were also of Arab origin.

A Soviet source said in Amman Friday that several vehicles had left for Al-Ruweished, expecting to pick up a group of 230 Soviet women and children evacuated from Baghdad. The source could not say how many of the group were residents of Kuwait or Iraq. There was no indication when Iraq would grant permission to Soviet men to leave. According to reports, there are at least 9,000 Soviet citizens in Iraq and Kuwait.

Hundreds of Asian nationals — Indians, Pakistanis, South Koreans, Filipinos, Thais, Sri Lankans, Bangladeshis and others — were among those crossing Friday. Many of them left aboard special flights arranged by their governments Friday evening and others stayed on, awaiting flights out Saturday and Sunday.

Over 150,000 foreigners — including 200 Westerners — have fled Iraq through Jordan since the Iraqi take-over of Kuwait on Aug. 2, according to some accounts. "It could somewhere in that region," said a senior Interior Ministry official.

Over 1,300 Jordanians also arrived from Kuwait through Iraq Friday, and some of them complained that they had to abandon their vehicles on the Iraqi side of the border in light

of a new rule which bars Kuwait licence plate vehicles from leaving Iraq. The alternative, according to the new regulation which went into effect last week, is to change the licence to an Iraqi one, a process which entails payment of customs duties and return to Baghdad from the border post, according to a Jordanian civil engineer, who said he drove a medium-size Japanese car to Baghdad, left the vehicle with some friends and took a bus to the border.

"Many others are simply drive their vehicles to the border and leave them there, said the engineer, who agreed to be identified only as Nihad. "On the other hand, there are many who sold their cars for as low as \$250 or \$300."

Meanwhile, an Iraqi Airways flight arrived here from Baghdad carrying 80 passengers with more than half of them Iraqi nationals and the rest an assortment of other Arabs, including Jordanians.

An Iraqi Airways official said no decision has been taken to operate daily flights from Baghdad to Amman. Most European countries have banned Iraqi flights from landing in their territory in line with a U.N. Security Council resolution calling for sanctions against Baghdad for its takeover of Kuwait.

The Arab Youth Forum expresses support for King's efforts to contain Gulf crisis

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Youth Forum (AYF) Friday voiced absolute support for His Majesty King Hussein's efforts to contain the Gulf crisis and to reach a pan-Arab solution to this inter-Arab dispute, sparing the region the consequences of a volatile and explosive situation.

At the end of an intensive meeting held at Al Hussein Youth City, attended by representatives of the AYF preparatory committees throughout the Kingdom, the forum sent a cable of appreciation to King Hussein and pledged to rally behind his

leadership. The forum noted with great appreciation the untiring efforts King Hussein has been and is still making to achieve Arab solidarity and rally the Arab Nation at this time when the destiny of the whole Arab Nation and its future is endangered.

The forum expressed its full support of the positions adopted by the King, saying that "such positions aim at containing all Arab disputes within an Arab framework and mobilising all resources to solve any Arab dispute

in an Arab perspective, away from any foreign intervention in the Arab affairs."

The participants rejected all forms of foreign interference in the region, irrespective of any justification or pretexts given for such intervention. The participants called on Arab leaders to back the efforts made by the King in order to fend off the threats and prevent the outbreak of war.

They also called them to deal with the Gulf crisis as an internal Arab affair, which should be solved only by the Arab family.

Official urges increased production, stable prices

AMMAN (Petra) — Chairman of the board of directors of the Amman Chamber of Industry (ACI) Khaldoun Abu Hassan Friday called on the industrial and productive sectors in Jordan to forge closer cooperation at this particular time when the crisis in the region is escalating.

Addressing a joint meeting, grouping representatives of the ACI and the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions (GFTU), Abu Hassan called for maintaining and increasing production to cover the needs of the local and foreign markets, and to stabilise the prices of the pro-

ducts, rather than increase them under the current circumstances. "By doing so, we demonstrate our genuine interest and our duty to counter the evils surrounding the Arab homeland," Abu Hassan said.

President of the GFTU Abdul Halim Khaddam said that the labour force in Jordan has always adopted honourable pan-Arab stands in defence of the Arab causes.

Khaddam called on the production forces to increase production and to adjust to the economic situation.

CONDOLENCES

The editor and the staff of the Jordan Times deeply mourn the passing of

Fadi Nasrallah

nephew of their friend and colleague Elia Nasrallah, in a car accident at the age of 13. We wish to express our sorrow to the Nasrallah family.

May the departed soul rest in peace.

NAF to amend regulations

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Social Development Abdul Majid Al Shraideh Thursday chaired a meeting for the National Aid Fund's (NAF) board of directors to discuss the possibility of making amendments to the fund's regulations, aimed at identifying needy families.

Shraideh stressed that the fund's top priority was to reach the poor segments of the society and those who are in real need for assistance in various parts of Jordan.

He urged the directors of social development departments, who attended the meeting, to intensify their studies, research and contracts in a bid to identify those in dire need for assistance and to send detailed reports about their cases to the ministry to enable it to provide assistance to them. He called for easing bureaucratic

procedures and for providing the necessary personnel and transportation needed for the field personnel to facilitate their missions.

At the end of the meeting the board decided to set up a special committee, grouping representatives of NAF and the social development departments, to work

out amendments to the NAF regulations with a view to making them consistent with the fund's objectives and mandate.

The minister had earlier announced that it was ready to give monthly assistance to at least 2,800 poor families and to assist in setting up income-generating projects for 2,000 families.

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WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zaru displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- Art exhibition by Suhaila Al Kowari at the Royal Cultural Centre.

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Gorbachev

(Continued from page 1)

Virtually all major weapons-producing nations have complied. Correspondents crowded around Shevardnadze at the end of a press conference with visiting West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher Friday to ask if Soviet troops would be sent to the Gulf.

"Yes, if there is a decision by the Security Council," Shevardnadze said.

Shevardnadze would not say how the Soviet Union would vote on such a proposal in the U.N. Security Council. "That question has not been raised yet," he said.

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Aqaba - Jordan

Navratilova races to Los Angeles quarterfinals

MANHATTAN BEACH, CALIFORNIA (AP) — Top-seeded Martina Navratilova needed only 43 minutes to beat Catarina Lindqvist 6-1, 6-1 in the third round of the Virginia Slims of Los Angeles women's tennis tournament.

Earlier Thursday, second-seeded Monica Seles overpowered Anne Smith and third-seeded Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina was upset by Stephanie Rehe.

Navratilova lost only four points on her serve in the first set, all in the sixth game when she was broken by Lindqvist. Lindqvist also broke Navratilova in the fifth game of the second set.

"Throughout the match, I didn't make any errors," Navratilova said. "I got all her returns back. I was mentally alert. I wanted to come out fast. I guess she felt the pressure. I've had close matches against her, but in the last couple of years she hasn't been playing as well."

Navratilova is 13-0 lifetime against Lindqvist.

"I didn't feel I had much of a chance," Lindqvist said. "We've played many times but today was the worst."

"I had an impossible start," said Lindqvist, of Sweden. "She

hardly made any unforced errors... today she just steamrolled. Her groundstrokes were so good. I just felt rushed, I never got into my own game."

The 16-year-old Seles took only 73 minutes to eliminate Smith 6-3, 6-3 after Rehe, who underwent back surgery 13 months ago, rallied for a 5-7, 6-4, 6-4 victory over Sabatini in a match which lasted two hours, 40 minutes.

In other third-round action in the \$350,000 tournament, fourth-seeded Zina Garrison topped 13th-seeded Rosalyn Fairbank-Nideffer 6-2, 6-0; fifth-seeded Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria downed Amanda Coetzer of South Africa 6-2, 6-0; sixth-seeded Mary Joe Fernandez beat 11th-seeded Laura Gildemeister of Peru 6-3, 6-2; Kathy Rinaldi upset seventh-seeded Jana Novotna of Czechoslovakia 3-6, 6-3, and ninth-seeded Amy Frazier rallied to upset eighth-seeded Nathalie Tauziat of France 3-6,

6-1, 6-1. After the Seles-Smith match, a tournament official told reporters that Smith had injured her left leg during the match, which had obviously impaired her movement.

"She's a tough player," Seles said of Smith. "I haven't played for a while, so my timing was off."

Seles is playing in her first tournament since Wimbledon in June, where she lost to Garrison in the quarterfinals. Sabatini appeared to be in control of her match with Rehe, leading 4-1 in the second set after winning the first set. But Rehe won the final five games of the second set to force a third set.

It was 3-3 in the third set when Rehe broke Sabatini's service. The players held service after that.

Garrison needed only 64 minutes to eliminate Fairbank-Nideffer while Maleeva required just 37 minutes to dispose of Coetzer.

It took Rinaldi more than two hours to upset Novotna and Frazier dominated the final two sets against Tauziat after losing the opening set.

Gomez loses temper and match

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut (AP) — Andres Gomez literally threw away his match with Christo van Rensburg at the Volvo International Tennis Tournament.

Gomez trailed 5-4 in a third-set tiebreaker when he served into the net for a double fault. Then his racket broke when he slammed it to the court in frustration. Chair umpire Richard Kaufman, who had warned Gomez earlier for a similar incident, penalized him a point, giving Van Rensburg the victory.

"That's the rule," Van Rensburg said. "Everyone knows that's the rule. That's why he didn't complain."

Gomez said after more than two hours and 40 minutes in the heat he couldn't help but get upset.

"I just reacted," he said. "I think we should be allowed to show our emotions."

The rule says a player may not "violently or with anger hit, kick or throw a racket or other equipment."

Gomez, the second seed, said he was upset he gave Van Rensburg so many opportunities.

"I had all the chances to win and he had only one or two. But he took advantage of it," he said.

Gomez held a 5-4 lead in the first set before dropping three straight games. He had triple set point in the second set, but finally won the tiebreaker, 7-3.

Gomez also held third-set leads of 4-2 and 5-3.

The 30-year-old from Ecuador showed his emotions throughout the match, kicking balls away several times after hitting them in the net, swinging at the ground several times after a mishit and throwing his racket 30 feet (9.15 metres) in the air after losing the first set.

Falcao named coach of Brazil national team

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — Paulo Roberto Falcao, a former all-star player with no coaching experience, was named Thursday the new coach of Brazil's national soccer team.

Ricardo Teixeira, president of the Brazilian Football Confederation, announced the appointment at the confederation's headquarters in Rio.

Falcao replaces Sebastiao Lazaroni, who quit after Brazil's elimination by Argentina in the World Cup in Italy and took a job with Italy's Fiorentina club.

Teixeira said Falcao would head a "long-term" rebuilding project that would essentially exclude players on foreign clubs.

"The new team will be formed by players who play in this country," Falcao said at a press conference after his appointment was announced.

The new coach said Brazilian soccer was going through "its worst moment ever."

Most of the players on Brazil's World Cup team were from European clubs. The "foreigners" were rarely available for practice and were tagged as "mercenaries" for hogging over prize money.

Falcao restrained from criticizing the defensive tactics of Lazaroni's team. He said he would adapt his strategy to the players at hand.

Falcao was picked for the post over other candidates with successful coaching careers, including former national team coaches Mario Zagallo and Carlos Alberto Parreira and ex-goalie Emerson Leao.

Falcao's chances reportedly got a boost when West Germany won the World Cup in July. Like

Falcao, West German coach Franz Beckenbauer is a former all-star midfielder with no previous coaching experience.

Falcao, 36, first won recognition in the 1970s on Internacional of Porto Alegre, which he led to national championships in 1975, 1976 and 1979.

His elegant play and sense of tactics made him a leader on the squad, which all-stars such as Manga, Batista, Carpegiani and Figueroa.

"The great Pele called Falcao 'my successor,'" he said.

In 1978, national team coach Claudio Coutinho caused an outcry when he failed to call Falcao for the World Cup in Argentina. Many Brazilians blamed the team's third-place finish on Falcao's absence.

Two years later, Falcao was sold to Roma of Italy. His play enchanted fans, who acclaimed him as the "eighth king of Rome." The Brazilian led the club to its first national title in 42 years, and his success sparked an exodus of top Brazilian players to Europe.

In 1982, Falcao was named to the national team for the World Cup in Spain. Although Brazil was eliminated by champion Italy in the quarterfinals, Falcao was a standout on a brilliant squad that boasted Zico, Socrates, Junior and Tominho Cerezo.

He returned to the national team for the 1986 World Cup in Mexico but played little.

In recent years, Falcao divided his time between TV sports commentary and his highly successful line of men's clothes.

His first test will come on Sept. 12, when Brazil is to play Spain in an exhibition game.

German athletics teams unite

WEST BERLIN (R) — East and West German athletics chiefs have agreed to send a united team to all international events from next January and the two National Olympic Committees (NOC) are to unite this year, clearing the way for an all-German superpower at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

West German Athletics Federation President Helmut Meyer and his East German counterpart, Gerd Schroeter, decided at a meeting Thursday to unite their federations and compete as one national athletics team from Jan. 1, 1991.

And on Friday in East Berlin, International Olympic Committee (IOC) chief Juan Antonio Samaranch attended a meeting at which the East and West German Olympic chiefs decided to unite their national Olympic Committees by mid-November.

With officials from major Olympic sports like gymnastics,

boxing and swimming also moving quickly towards united federations, a powerful all-German Olympic team is now virtually certain to take the stage in Barcelona.

"This is exactly the right decision," Meyer said. "But we can't simply add up the medals and call ourselves the greatest."

"Certainly, we will be much better off. The East German women are the best in the world and the men are world-class. It should stay that way."

"The track and field move has the full backing of International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) President Primo Nebiolo, who attended Thursday's discussions ahead of Friday's West Berlin Grand Prix."

"From that day onwards (Jan. 1, 1991), only one German team will be able to compete at international events and championships," Nebiolo said in a statement.

Australian upsets world number one in squash

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (R) — Australia's Chris Rodertson scored a sensational upset over world number one Jahangir Khan in the New Zealand Open Squash Championships Friday to claim a place in the final.

With Jahangir well short of his peak following a three-month layoff, the 24-year-old third seed inflicted his first defeat on the Pakistani in some 30 meetings, 15-8, 15-11, 16-17, 15-7.

Robertson was on top form after the recent Australian championships and Jahangir, who has not played since the British Open, made far too many errors.

"I'm absolutely out of my brain," said Robertson. "now I think I can start beating him a bit more in the future."

Robertson had a match ball in the third game but Jahangir won the point. In the fourth, however, Jahangir just ran out of steam.

In the other semi-final, second-seeded Jansher Khan of Pakistan, the world champion, began as if he was going to blast Australian left-hander Chris Dittmar in three games.

Instead, he was forced to go the full distance before winning 15-7, 15-7, 10-15, 13-15, 15-3.

Dittmar, the fourth seed, started slowly and Jansher quickly won the first two games with his relentless retrieving.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & YANNAR HIRSCH
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THE OLD ORDER CHANGETH

Neither vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♠ A 10 6 2
♥ Void
♦ K 8 4 3
♣ A 9 8 7 3

WEST
♠ 8
♥ Q 8 7 5
♦ A Q J 10 9 6 2 5
♣ J

EAST
♠ K Q J 9 7 4
♥ J 10
♦ Q J 10 9 6 2 5
♣ Q 10 4 2

SOUTH
♠ 5 3
♥ A K 9 6 4 3 2
♦ 7
♣ K 6 5

The bidding:
West North East South
4 ♠ Pass Pass 4 ♠
Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Eight of ♠

The ranks of our friends and fellow bridge experts are growing ever thinner. We were saddened to learn of the death of Jeremy Flint, one of Britain's great player-writers. Fortunately for British bridge, a number of young players are on the threshold of greatness. Foremost among them is 26-year-old Andrew Robson who, in partnership with Tony Forrester, recently won two major tournaments.

On this hand from the Staten

Bank tournament in Holland, Robson, South, was opposed by two of Brazil's world champions, Gabriel Chagas, West, and Marcello Branco. Against four hearts Chagas led the singleton spade, taken by the ace. A club to the king provided the entry to the closed hand for declarer to cash the ace-king of trumps and continue with a third round.

West won the eight and queen and, realizing that if he cashed the ace of diamonds, East would be squeezed in the black suits, found the spectacular defense of returning the queen of diamonds to the king! Now it would not help declarer to ruff a diamond and run his trumps, since East would be able to hold on to a winner in each black suit for down one.

Robson found a brilliant counter. He returned a diamond, discarding a club from hand, and the defenders had no recourse. East was forced to win and continue a diamond. Declarer ruffed and ran his trumps, coming down to a spade and a club in hand with an ace and another club on the board. East was forced to release his guard in one of the black suits, presenting declarer with the fulfilling trick in whichever suit was discarded.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY AUGUST 18, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Gain your long-term serious ambitions by putting some modern ideas or conditions at work to gain the results you desire. Avoid any confusion with those you suspect of playing devious games.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Whatever you have early in mind of a career nature needs careful review but then you will be able to get together with good friends for a bail.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Don't look to a new source of information for the data you need but rely upon any advisor who has been correct to date in suggestions made to you.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Avoid getting into anything of a business contentious nature in the morning but instead put your energies into gaining a personal and intimate wish.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Sidestep the importunings of an outsider who likes to argue and put your attention on fulfilling your special duties with much thought and work.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Do whatever your usual work tasks quickly and then get off to new horizons where you can become inspired with advanced ways to better your character.

VERGO: (August 22 to September 22) Don't go off on any type of a pleasure jaunt in the morning but spend all day looking after those

business and practical interests that claim your attention.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Absent yourself from a family member for the moment who has a chip-on-the-shoulder and get out in the world and make new acquaintances with those of importance.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Discount a communication early from one who is itching for an argument, then you will be able to get more rapport with usual fellow associates.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Eschew anything of an important nature of a financial type in the morning; instead spend the day concentrating upon the creative phase of your special ability.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Your morning confusion should keep you from positive action in the morning but, this quickly passes and then you have good judgment for handling home affairs.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get out from under some annoyance early and you can spend the whole day getting fresh inspiration and ideas for being more productive in usual outlets.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Don't allow an older or limiting person to keep you from putting your time and energies on building up your assets and other practical matters.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

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"Stanley gave blood 19 times this month — he can't resist a free doughnut."

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ROPIR

GANET

THUNGA

HURGOT

Answer here: HES OF

Yesterday's Jumbles: SINGE BALKY COMPLY WIZARD

Answer: In connection with nudists, should one have to take this into consideration? THEY WERE "BORN THAT WAY"

THE Daily Crossword

by Evelyn Benshoof



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

DOWN: 1. Pond cover 2. Hebrides 3. Island 4. Clusler 5. Impressive 6. Bobbin 7. Novice

ACROSS: 1. Shedbox 2. OH political 3. Small car 4. Cougar 5. Ford city 6. Out of shape 7. Sesame 8. One of two 9. Tennis climax 10. Suspend 11. Cheer 12. Occurrence 13. Swatch 14. Shewl 15. Exchange premium 16. Bargain 17. Jave 18. Baseball's Roger 19. In the bag 20. Disposed 21. CA valley 22. A Doll's House 23. Locker room item 24. Resentful 25. TV 26. Claim 27. Thoroughly good time 28. Indicated 29. Bird sound 30. quia non 31. Ante or arcade 32. Valley 33. Addict 34. Savage one 35. Went under 36. Sprightly 37. Libeline 38. Last word 39. Bombastic 40. Penitent 41. Hard stone 42. Chin. society 43. Alcohol type 44. Bird sound 45. Shoe part 46. Hominy 47. Culture medium 48. Artist Joan 49. Explicit 50. Wicket 51. Brief letter 52. Gr. letter 53. Rabbit kin 54. Distant 55. Official stamp 56. Help a felon 57. Animates 58. Awkward

51. — lily 52. Steady or 53. Vase 54. Motionless 55. Fens

56. Some feeder 57. Pious 58. Aware of 59. Sloth 60. Phoenix 61. Phoenix city

JORDAN WELFARE LOTTERY

Ordinary issue No 15

Drawing of: Aug 17, 1990

Winning Tickets

Holder of ticket No. **34183**

Wins JD 25,000

Holder of ticket No. **65042**

Wins JD 6,000

Holder of ticket No. **35517**

Wins JD 3,000

Holder of ticket No. **54455**

Wins JD 2,500

Holder of ticket No. **68299**

Wins JD 1,500

Holder of ticket No. **19793**

Wins JD 1,200

Holder of ticket No. **27894**

Wins JD 1,000

Holder of ticket No. **75432**

Wins JD 600

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD1,000 each wins JD 100

34184 34193 34283 35183 44183

34182 34173 34083 33183 24183

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 600 each wins JD 60

65043 65052 65142 66042 75042

65041 65032 65942 64042 55042

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 300 each wins JD 30

35518 35527 35617 36517 45517

35516 35507 35417 34517 25517

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 200 each wins JD 20

54456 54465 54555 55455 64455

54454 54445 54355 53455 44455

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD150 each wins JD 15

68290 68209 68399 69299 78299

68298 68289 68199 67299 58299

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD100 each wins JD 10

19794 19703 19893 10793 29793

19792 19783 19693 18793 09793

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 80 each wins JD 8

27895 27804 27994 28894 37894

27893 27884 27794 26894 17894

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 70 each wins JD 7

75433 75442 75532 76432 05432

75431 75422 75332 74432 65432

Ticket numbers **14765 36982 68451 40728** win JD 200 each

Ticket numbers **70244 32075 24771** win JD 100 each

TICKETS ENDING WITH

4258 8790 9048 7523 6757 Win JD 20 each

7680 6983 9296 3980 6855 Win JD 10 each

411 189 108 057 631 Win JD 5 each

8000 tickets ending with **2** Win JD 2 each.

COVER PRIZES FOR THE LOTTERY SELLERS

40 covers, attached to the stub of 10 ending in **239 039 337 782 701** Win JD 10

Winners of the grand prizes in the ordinary issue number **14** of **August 2, 1990**

Raja Rida Child - Irbid Full first JD 25,000

Naser Hussein Student - Irbid Half second JD 3,000

Omar Suheimat Trader - Irbid Half second JD 3,000

Ahmed Qadoudi Child - Amman Full third JD 3,000

Bassem Hussein Trader - Zarqa Half fourth JD 1,250

Lebanese central bank fixes no dollar rate for fifth day

BEIRUT (R) — The Lebanese central bank failed to fix a rate for the dollar for the fifth successive day Friday following heavy demand in the wake of the Gulf crisis.

Banking sources said the central bank, wanting "more rational financial operations" declined to fix a rate in the hope that this may help subside the confusion in the market. Commercial banks also posted no dollar rate.

The last official quote, at the

end of last week, was 755.00/760.00 liras to the dollar.

The lira has fluctuated between 800 and 830 to the dollar in black market dealings during the week.

The sources said the central bank's capacity to intervene in the foreign exchange market has diminished as a result of a drop in its reserves to a perceived "danger level" of \$500 million. It has in the past intervened actively, selling or buying dollars to stabilise the market.

The lira has nosedived sharply since the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait, passing 700 to the dollar for the first time on Aug. 7 following heavy demand for the U.S. currency.

The sources said the high demand reflected concern over the future of an Arab-sponsored peace plan to end the country's 15-year civil war because of Arab preoccupation with the Gulf crisis.

Indonesia, Ecuador oppose Saudi call for immediate OPEC meeting

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia said Friday it opposed an immediate OPEC meeting called for by Saudi Arabia to avert oil shortages during the Gulf crisis.

"Indonesia is not against OPEC meeting but the time is not yet right. I believe the right time is at the end of August or early September by which time OPEC could evaluate world stocks," Mines and Energy Minister Ginanjar Kartasasmita told Reuters.

countries drop sharply before pumping more oil into the market to make up for the cut in supplies from Iraq and Kuwait.

Oil analysts say at least six of the 13-member group are opposed to the Saudi proposal, but add that Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, is clearly ready to act alone.

"The around 500 million barrels of overhanging oil stocks need to be reduced to normal levels. If not they will threaten future oil prices," Ginanjar said.

He cautioned the group against becoming politicised. "OPEC was set up as an organisation for economic reasons to provide as much benefit as possible to producers and consumers."

IN Quito, Ecuador Energy Minister Diego Tamariz Thursday restated his opposition to an urgent OPEC ministerial meeting sought by Venezuela and Saudi Arabia to analyse possible oil production increases.

Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer called on Thursday for an immediate meeting. Indonesia, Asia's only member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), is a moderate voice within the group.

Earlier, Ginanjar said OPEC minister should look to world oil stocks at the end of the month and then decide whether to hold a meeting.

"I respect the Saudi proposal. Any country can propose a meeting if they have a reason and OPEC must honour that. But the question is the timing," he noted.

"Indonesia shares the view with Saudi Arabia that we should not allow oil prices to fluctuate and jump too high because it will affect the world economy," Ginanjar said.

He said any OPEC country had the right to decide to increase production but the group as a whole would not be responsible.

"But Indonesia expects that will not happen. We want to keep OPEC unity. It is important for OPEC members to show restraint and to understand the problems facing other countries," Ginanjar said.

Tamariz said that Ecuador would not support an urgent meeting due to worries the organisation may be forced to deal with political problems that do not fall within its realm.

Venezuela supports the call for an early meeting, and President Carlos Andres Perez has said his nation could produce an additional 500,000 barrels per day (b/d) but would not do so without OPEC accord.

Indonesia is among several OPEC members which want to see oil stockpiles in industrialised

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Indonesia is among several OPEC members which want to see oil stockpiles in industrialised

West German firms buy stake in East German gas monopoly

EAST BERLIN (R) — West Germany's two biggest gas suppliers bought 45 per cent of East Germany's gas monopoly Thursday, the first large privatisation in the former communist controlled economy.

East Germany's government trustee agency, responsible for privatisation, said it had sold 35 per cent of Verbundnetz Gas

A.G. to Ruhrgas A.G. and another 10 per cent to Brigitta Elwerath GmbH, a West German unit of oil giants Shell and Esso.

Reiner Gohlke, the agency's president, told reporters the two firms had made a 450 million mark (\$290 million) advance payment for the 45 per cent stake.

The final price would be decided

by an independent team of accountants.

"This price is a minimum and we hope the final result will be higher," said Gohlke, whose agency has so far signed deals worth 800 million marks (more than \$500 million) to privatise industry.

Ruhrgas's East German ambitions have drawn criticism from the European Community's anti-trust authorities, which feared non-West German firms were being kept out of the bidding.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES			
Thursday, August 16, 1990			
Central Bank official rates			
	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	656.0	660.0	
Pound Sterling	1245.9	1253.4	
Deutschmark	419.2	421.7	
Swiss franc	502.5	505.5	
French franc		124.5	125.5
Japanese yen (for 100)		443.4	446.1
Dutch guilder		372.0	374.2
Swedish crown		113.7	114.4
Italian lira (for 100)		57.2	57.5
Belgian franc (for 10)		204.7	205.9

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES			
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.			
One Sterling	1.9130/40	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1470/80	Canadian dollar	
	1.5315/20	Deutschmark	
	1.7490/7500	Dutch guilders	
	1.2865/75	Swiss francs	
	31.91/96	Belgian francs	
	5.2100/50	French francs	
	1144/1145	Italian lire	
	147.55/65	Japanese yen	
	5.7265/7315	Swedish crowns	
	6.0305/55	Norwegian crowns	
	5.9415/65	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	410.25/411.25	U.S. dollars	

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Nabila Obeid — Salah Gabeel

In

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(Arabic)

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CONCORD

Dured Lahham

Madeline Tabar

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Nabila Obeid — Farouq Al Fishawi — Farid Shawqi

In

THE CHALLENGE

(Arabic)

Performances: 3:45, 6:15, 8:30 and 10:30 p.m.

Analysts anticipate pressure on profits of U.S. corporations

NEW YORK (AP) — Most industries' profits will be hurt by the Middle East crisis, analysts say.

It also appears increasingly less likely that the final quarter will salvage a year of relatively lackluster returns.

"Everybody is going to be hurt by this," said Robert Brusca, chief economist at Nikko Securities Co. International Inc.

But contracts do get renegotiated, or even broken. "The legal fees associated with breaking a contract might be cheaper than supplying somebody with cheap energy," said John Silvia, an economist and vice president at Kemper Financial Services in Chicago.

Silvia has revised his profit projections in light of the oil crisis. He's predicting corporate profits will total \$306 billion in the quarter ending Sept. 30, down from an earlier estimate of around \$320 billion. And for the final quarter of the year, he expects profits to show an 18 per cent decline from the year-ago period.

"There will be different degrees of impact, but I don't think anybody is going to walk away from it and say they're not affected," Silvia said.

Companies taking the hit initially are airlines, transportation companies and consumer durables manufacturers, but that will filter down to most other industries over time, he said.

"The most serious overall issue has to be consumer confidence," Silvia said. Given the weakness in demand, manufacturers may have a hard time passing on price increases to compensate for their higher costs.

"The (Middle East) crisis adds another layer to the problems firms are facing," Nikko's Brusca said. "They're cutting back capital spending, inventories have been cut down and order backlogs have been falling for some time," all indications that corporate projections are less than optimistic.

Union Carbide Corp. has seen "no major effect on our operating or production costs" and has made no major changes in its strategic plans, spokesman Thomas Sprick said from company headquarters in Danbury, Conn.

Both he and Lucas suggested their companies may be somewhat insulated from higher prices because they have long-term contracts for raw materials.

SAO PAULO (R) — The Gulf crisis is threatening the bold economic reforms getting under way in Latin America's oil-importing nations while giving oil exporters like Mexico and Ecuador more breathing room from financial pressures.

Brazil, which has endured three failed attempts at economic reform since 1986, just a month ago began seeing strong evidence that the policies of President Fernando Collor de Mello, who took office in March, would tame hyperinflation.

Victory over inflation is suddenly in doubt because of higher oil prices.

"The Middle East could have a dramatic effect on Brazil's economic stabilisation programme," said former Finance Minister Malton da Nobrega.

Nobrega and other analysts say the passing on of higher crude prices could rekindle inflation in Brazil, Latin America's biggest country.

The higher world prices represent an additional \$1 billion over six months for oil imports in Brazil, a huge figure for a nation whose foreign exchange reserves do not equal arrears on foreign debt.

Brazil, which imports about half of the 1.2 million barrels a day of petroleum it consumes, last week raised fuel prices an average of 8.9 per cent.

Brazil, which was Iraq's largest food supplier after the United

Asian stocks plunge

TOKYO (AP) — Tokyo stock prices plunged Friday as hopes diminished for a swift settlement of the Middle East crisis, while the dollar drifted lower against the Japanese yen.

The 225-issue Nikkei stock average fell 762.72 points, or 2.77 per cent, to 26,786.72 points by the close of the week's trading. Estimated volume was 300 million shares.

Traders said that many investors were disappointed with the outcome of the meeting between President George Bush and His Majesty King Hussein at Bush's summer retreat in Kennebunkport, Maine.

Optimism swept the market Wednesday on rumors that King Hussein was carrying a letter containing a peace proposal from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, boosting the Nikkei average over 1,400 points.

yen and a high of 148.10 yen.

With the United States facing long-term economic problems, and Japan's economy relatively stronger in the short term, traders predicted that the dollar would remain in the 147-148 range.

Although the dollar normally gains strength in times of crisis, the structural weaknesses of the U.S. economy have overwhelmed its traditional strength in times of crisis, traders said.

"The yen has strengthened a little," said Robert Feldman of Solomon Brothers Asia.

On the bond market, the yield of the benchmark No. 119 10-year Japanese government bonds closed at 8.050 per cent, up from Thursday's close of 7.985 per cent. Its price fell to 83.24 points from 83.52 points the previous day.

The gloomy outlook for the U.S. economy and gathering stormclouds in the Middle East drove down other Asian stock prices and eroded the dollar's earlier gains.

The Taipei exchange saw a record one-day percentage loss. Share prices were sharply down in Singapore, Hong Kong and Sydney, though the Australian decline appeared due less to international tension than negative news from building giant CSR.

Brokers in Japan predict more volatility and possible further declines next week.

"Next week fund managers will be coming back from holidays," said a broker at a Japanese house. "It is difficult to say what will happen but they may start selling after having missed this week's losses."

The U.S. currency hit a record low of 1.5475 marks here on active selling fuelled by concerns over Thursday's steep decline in U.S. stocks and bonds

Traders said that uncertainty over how events in the Middle East might change over the weekend depressed trading, and arbitrage traders were active in the falling market.

Cheaper bonds also played a role, according to Kazubiro Nomura, of the New Japan Securities Co.

Brent crude for October delivery continued to climb, meanwhile. It was valued at about \$26.10-\$26.20 a barrel in Tokyo Friday afternoon, up from the previous evening's price in New York of \$26.00-\$26.05 a barrel.

In currency trading, the dollar closed at 147.35 yen. Trading moved between a low of 147.35

The Straits Times industrial index of 30 Singapore blue chips fell 16.98 points to 1,312.38 while the United Overseas Bank's OTC index, which tracks the performance of Malaysian and overseas stocks traded on the 'over the counter' market, shed 12.71 points to 885.66.

In Hong Kong, the Hang Seng index was easier at 3125.92 from 3183.29 in late trading.

The Australian stock market, which had earlier held its ground amid the heightened Gulf tension and the sharp falls in New York and Tokyo, finished sharply down after CSR said it faced a sharp slump in sales.

Latin nations fear economic fallout from crisis in Gulf

SAO PAULO (R) — The Gulf crisis is threatening the bold economic reforms getting under way in Latin America's oil-importing nations while giving oil exporters like Mexico and Ecuador more breathing room from financial pressures.

Brazil, which has endured three failed attempts at economic reform since 1986, just a month ago began seeing strong evidence that the policies of President Fernando Collor de Mello, who took office in March, would tame hyperinflation.

Victory over inflation is suddenly in doubt because of higher oil prices.

"The Middle East could have a dramatic effect on Brazil's economic stabilisation programme," said former Finance Minister Malton da Nobrega.

Nobrega and other analysts say the passing on of higher crude prices could rekindle inflation in Brazil, Latin America's biggest country.

The higher world prices represent an additional \$1 billion over six months for oil imports in Brazil, a huge figure for a nation whose foreign exchange reserves do not equal arrears on foreign debt.

Brazil, which imports about half of the 1.2 million barrels a day of petroleum it consumes, last week raised fuel prices an average of 8.9 per cent.

Brazil, which was Iraq's largest food supplier after the United

States, has lost two markets that in 1989 totalled \$342.9 million for Iraq and \$52.1 million for Kuwait, or a little more than one per cent of total exports.

In neighbouring Argentina the first impact of the Gulf crisis was a 20 per cent increase in petrol prices.

Argentina also announced Tuesday it was putting its plans to deregulate the oil industry on hold.

The Peronist government said it would renegotiate the production rights owned by state oil company YPF for some older oilfields it had awarded to private companies for \$252 million.

Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex) Director Francisco Rojas said last week that Mexico would earn an extra \$4.38 billion a year in oil export revenues based on the conservative estimate of prices staying at \$20.50 a barrel.

Mexico says it will put aside any oil windfall to protect itself from the possibility of higher world interest rates.

"Mexico is going to put aside any additional income to solve any contingency that might arise," said an official.

Polish firm predicts difficult future selloffs

WARSAW (R) — Polish Overseas Traders Universal S.A., fresh from the country's biggest share flotation offer to date, has said its sale was a success but large-scale privatisation of the economy would prove more difficult.

Universal's development manager, Tomasz Lukaszewicz, cited public ignorance, shortage of domestic capital and lack of legislation as obstacles facing the government in its drive to privatise faster than any other country.

"Some people still don't understand what a share is and what a bond is," Lukaszewicz said in an interview. "It needs a lot of work from the government side... it needs an act of clarifying what a security is, what a stock exchange is, how it should function and so on."

He said capital in Poland would be sufficient for privatising an initial 10 large firms — the government's target for 1990 — but after that special credits might be needed.

Universal plans to use its new capital to invest in other firms which are in the process of privatising and to boost its own trading operations and diversify into such

new areas as transport and real estate.

Lukaszewicz said the firm had profits of 250 billion zloties (\$26.3 million) in the first half of 1990. Giving the first detailed results of the Universal sell-off which ended earlier this month, Lukaszewicz said 13 foreign investors had put \$100,000 or more each into Universal.

Of the firm's enlarged capital of 150 billion zloties (16 million), 35 per cent would be owned by the Polish state or state-owned firms and 65 per cent by private investors — 30 per cent by foreigners and 35 per cent by Poles.

The biggest stake — 945,200 shares or 6.3 per cent — belongs to a British firm, Ullman Shore. Other institutional investors from Britain, France, Switzerland, Denmark and the United States are among the biggest foreign shareholders.

Allocations for both Polish and foreign investors were oversubscribed as buyers queued at Universal's Warsaw headquarters in the final week of the sale. In both cases, Universal negotiated with the biggest subscribers to trim their holdings.

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South Africa's black factional war engulfs Soweto for 2nd day

SOWETO, South Africa (R) — Factional war engulfed Soweto Friday in the second day of bloody battles between Zulus and supporters of the African National Congress (ANC).

Police smothered the centre of the black township with tear gas to curb fresh spear and gun battles on streets where 22 people have been killed since Thursday. "The fighting is all through central areas of Soweto," said police spokesman Colonel Tienie Halgryn. "I can't confine reports of the fighting to a single area anymore."

The new battles between mainly Xhosa followers of ANC Deputy President Nelson Mandela and Zulu migrant workers loyal to the politically conservative Inkatha Movement of Chief Mangosuthu Buthe followed crisis talks Thursday between Mandela and President F.W. de Klerk.

"Why do we slaughter each other like beasts?" Mandela asked South Africa's blacks of the fighting which this week has killed more than 160 people in

clashes south of Johannesburg. Police trying to convene emergency peace talks between local leaders of the warring factions said the meeting would not take place before Saturday. They gave no reason.

Halgryn said 22 people had been killed in Soweto, the country's largest township, since political and tribal unrest spread there from other townships on Thursday morning.

Halgryn said the latest casualty was a black youth shot dead by police trying to put down black-against-black fighting outside a hostel for migrant Zulu workers in the Zondi area.

At the scene, residents said the youth was a 13-year-old member of Mandela's Xhosa tribe. Police in the Zondi, West Jabavu and Nancefield districts fired volley after volley of tear gas, trying to stop blacks chanting war cries from slashing and stabbing at each other with long knives, axes and spears.

Youths fearful of attack by Zulu "impis" (war parties) bar-

caded streets with stones and burning tyres.

"The people are staying home in case the Zulus attack," said a man watching firemen trying to douse a blazing bus that had been pushed into the road as a barricade.

Residents estimated tens of thousands of Soweto's two million residents stayed at home, afraid of venturing out into the streets. Many schools stayed empty for a second day.

Helmets riot police patrolling in armoured cars were supported by white plainclothes officers carrying shotguns.

In West Jabavu, residents were angry, pointing to a house adjoining the hostel where they said an old woman had been killed overnight. Police later fired tear gas to disperse angry mobs.

Cmb-carrying youths stood guard over the bludgeoned corpses of two black men in their 30s by a railway track a short distance away at Naledi Extension.

Witnesses reported two other

bodies in Soweto's Nancefield district near a Zulu hostel.

The hostels are grim, single-sex barracks that house Zulus from Natal province and the KwaZulu tribal homeland who work in and around Johannesburg, the country's industrial capital.

Their opponents are largely their neighbours, local people living in squatter camps or rudimentary township bungalows.

The ANC says police favour Inkatha and convince at the violence to weaken the ANC, the main anti-apartheid movement, and to divide blacks on tribal lines. Police deny this.

In a late-night crisis meeting Thursday in Soweto, Mandela met Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok and agreed to set up a "peace forum" at the township's main police station.

The ANC-Inkatha conflict has spilled over this week to the Johannesburg area from Natal province where 4,000 people have died in four years of fighting.

Liberian sides agree to meet

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) — Liberia's rival rebel factions and a representative of President Samuel Doe have agreed to meet to try to bring an end to the West African nation's bloody civil war, sources said.

Government sources in Gambia's capital of Banjul said a meeting was being arranged between two rebel factions and a Doe envoy.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Prince Johnson and rival rebel leader Charles Taylor were expected to attend talks Monday in Banjul.

Word of that meeting could lead to further delays in the deployment of a West African force that intends to halt the fighting.

Taylor's departure for the talks was delayed when he suffered minor injuries in an auto accident as he prepared to leave, Tom Woewiyu, Taylor's spokesman and defence minister, said Friday.

The accident was not serious, but Taylor returned to the Firestone rubber plantation clinic for treatment and to arrange new transport, Woewiyu said from Abidjan, Ivory Coast. The plantation is 56 kilometres southeast of Monrovia.

Woewiyu did not say when Taylor would leave Liberia for Banjul.

Nigerian and Guinean troops are mobilising in Freetown, Sierra Leone, with soldiers from Gambia, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Togo to form a force of more than 2,500 men.

The United States says it will not intervene militarily to end the conflict in Liberia, established in 1847 by freed American slaves.

In Washington, Defence Department spokesman Pete Williams said the Liberian capital of Monrovia was relatively quiet Thursday.

He said the U.S. embassy was being guarded by 66 Marines, down from 225 earlier in the week when street battles raged around the diplomatic compounds.

Williams said about 344 Indian nationals were evacuated from the U.S. embassy compound Thursday and brought to the USS Saipan — a U.S. warship off the Liberian coast — before departing for Freetown.

The Marines had previously evacuated 334 people, including 62 U.S. government workers and 49 private U.S. citizens, he said. The rest were foreign nationals.

A leading Nigerian newspaper, the Guardian, reported Thursday morning that Taylor's rebels shot two Nigerian citizens to death inside their Monrovia embassy during the past week. The report was certain to step up pressure on Nigeria's military government to speed up intervention.

Senior Nigerian government officials have said Taylor will pay for any attacks on Nigerians. Taylor spokesman Tom Woewiyu says Nigeria and Guinea, whose leaders are friends of Doe, are trying to use the West African force as a cover to get troops into Liberia to bolster the besieged president.

Johnson controls most of the capital and Taylor the rest of the country of 2.3 million people. But Doe — backed by government troops — has refused to leave the presidential mansion.

"We want peace, we want peace," chanted a crowd as Johnson visited rebel-controlled sections of downtown Monrovia and nearby Bushrod Island Thursday.

The Taylor-led rebels claimed Tuesday that they had killed Johnson.

"Here I am," Johnson said, waving at the crowd estimated in the tens of thousands. "Do you believe I'm dead?"

"No, No," the crowd replied, dancing, singing and cheering. Johnson took a guitar from one of his followers and strummed along as he led the crowd in a rendition of We Shall Overcome.

Insurgents of Taylor's National Patriotic Front invaded from Ivory Coast on Dec. 24 to oust what they called Doe's corrupt government.

Fighting between Taylor, a former Doe aide accused of embezzlement, and a splinter group led by former army officer Johnson has prolonged the conflict.

The war has taken the heaviest toll on civilians, who make up most of the estimated 5,000 people killed in the fighting.

The war has become a tribal conflict with rebels killing civilians of Doe's Krahin tribe and Mandingos accused of supporting him. Government soldiers have slaughtered people of the Gio and Mano tribes, to which most rebels belong.

Barricades burn, bodies pile up in Soweto

SOWETO (R) — The man lay curled up as if sleeping, his freshly-bludgeoned corpse guarded by a group of early black South African teenagers carrying sticks and knives.

A breeze fluttered pages of newspaper stuck clumsily to the man's bloodied head, hiding his face from a line of Soweto township residents queuing to view the corpse atop a railway embankment.

At the foot of the embankment lay a second battered body.

Neither the youths nor the queue of silent, grim-faced men and women would describe what had happened.

"Write the truth," a club-wielding youth hissed at a Reuters correspondent. The police and the press were the same, he muttered.

The scene typified the mix of anger, fear and confusion gripping the country's largest township after political and tribal violence spread to Soweto from other black settlements around Johannesburg.

More than 160 people have been killed this week in spear and gun battles between factions supporting and opposing anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela.

A tour of the township Friday showed that the violence was localised in areas around hostels used by Zulu migrant workers from Natal province who are opposed to Mandela's African National Congress (ANC).

The grim, single-sex barracks hostels are dotted all over the smog-filled township of spartan bungalow houses and usually adjoin train stations, where there is often tension between residents travelling to work and Zulus.

On a rubble-strewn street men and women looked on resignedly as firemen doused flames in a commandeered bus that had been set alight and used as a barricade.

"We can't go to work today. They burn the buses. Other buses won't come," said a man standing with his arms folded.

Several streets away beside Mapeta Hostel in the West Jabavu district, an angry, sullen crowd gathered outside a house, which had had its windows smashed in and front room set alight.

Residents said the fire was caused by tear gas canisters fired into the house by police Thursday. They accused the hostel workers of killing an old woman overnight in a house down the street.

"They came here, the Zulus. They killed an old woman, a grandmother," said a middle-aged man, stuttering and choking with anger.

"This bloody, bloody..." he kept saying, shaking his head. "What's the use of having the police if they don't protect the people," said a younger man.

"The funniest thing is the police were here at the time. They are supporting these guys."

Youth carrying hammers, axes and long nightwatchmen's sticks called knobkerries patrolled up and down the pavement.

Minutes later heavily-armed police fired tear gas into the hostel and at the crowd outside. People ran in all directions and regrouped at a distance.

Young white policemen in jeans and sweatshirts patrolled the station with pump-action shotguns.

Collapsing E. German coalition threatens unification process

EAST BERLIN (R) — East Germany's government collapse threatened to block a vital treaty on German unification in revenge for the firing of two of their ministers.

SPD leader Wolfgang Thierse, pronouncing the coalition dead, said his party would vote against the treaty on political and legal aspects of unity in its present form.

"If the treaty is not significantly improved, will have no choice but to turn it down," Thierse told RTL television.

The SPD's parliamentary caucus meets Sunday and looks set to follow the leadership recommendation to quit the coalition.

Christian Democratic (CDU) Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere needs the SPD to reach the two-thirds parliamentary majority required to approve both the treaty and East Berlin's accession to Bonn.

He has to hope that despite Thierse's threats the SPD's commitment to speedy unification will push the motions through.

Just when politicians are clamouring to speed up unity to rescue East Germany's decrepit economy, the government crisis is bringing the process to a grinding halt.

Newspapers Friday accused East German political leaders of being bungling amateurs, saying the squabbling was an irresponsible distraction from real issues.

"Perhaps people who liken Lothar de Maiziere's cabinet to

an amateur dramatics society are not so wide of the mark," the communist daily Neues Deutschland said.

East Germans have grown increasingly disillusioned with their democratic government since the country's first free election in March ended 40 years of Communist rule.

"Since the beginning of the month, the man (De Maiziere) who called himself East German's lawyer seems to have sunk to being a stage hand in a dirty electioneering stage show," the top-circulation Junge Welt said.

De Maiziere sacked SPD Finance Minister Walter Romberg and Agriculture Minister Peter Pollack, an SPD associate, Wednesday, accusing them of incompetence.

Two further ministers, for justice and economics, resigned. Newspapers said that if incompetence were really the yardstick for the dismissals, then De Maiziere should have axed several more cabinet members.

Unemployment is forecast to reach two million, a quarter of the workforce, by the end of the year. Whole sectors of industry are expected to close.

The CDU and SPD agree swift unification is the only hope for stopping the rot, but their attempts to set a timetable have ended in near-farical disaster.

The CDU wants to declare formal accession to West Germany in mid-October, with All-German parliamentary elections on Dec. 2. The SPD wants accession even earlier, but De Maiziere has said this is out of the question.

Meanwhile the Soviet and West German foreign ministers met Friday to discuss final preparations for German unity — a move which could be hastened by the collapse of East Berlin's coalition government.

Edvard Shevardnadze and Hans-Dietrich Genscher were expected to discuss a treaty on relations between Moscow and the new German state and an agreement on gradual withdrawal of Moscow's 360,000 troops from East Germany.

The talks were called ahead of a "two plus four" group meeting in Moscow on Sept. 12, which will probably seal Germany's security status in Europe with a final declaration.

The "two plus four" group embraces the foreign ministers of the two German states and the four World War II allies — the Soviet Union, the United States, Britain and France — which retain special rights in Germany under occupation agreements.

Before his meeting with the Soviet minister, Genscher underlined the importance of the "two plus four" talks, telling reporters: "We will do everything to ensure that we keep to Sept. 12 as the final date for conclusion so that external matters have no effect (on unification)."

Moscow has argued throughout that external issues should be settled before unification.

The Soviet Union cleared the greatest obstacle last month when it agreed to Western demands that a united Germany be part of the NATO alliance. But several complex issues are unresolved.

Sri Lankan troops thwart rebel attacks

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Sri Lankan troops, trying to stem a wave of massacres among the country's ethnic and religious communities, killed 20 Tamil separatists who were on their way to attack a Muslim village, military sources said Friday.

Troops foiled several other attempts by Tamil rebels to attack Sinhalese and Muslim villages in the north and east, the sources said. These reports could not be independently confirmed.

"We are now coming to grips with the situation and devising various methods to battle this menace. They are not taking us by surprise any more," a military officer said.

Military authorities say members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), fighting to get their own homeland, have killed hundreds of Muslim and Sinhalese villagers this month. Rebel leaders have denied the charge.

Muslim civilians were given weapons this week to protect their villages from rebel attacks. Hundreds of civil "home guard" units have been armed.

Deputy Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne said Thursday that Tamil civilians would be armed to protect their villages from reprisal attacks by angered Muslims.

Wijeratne has said the Tigers are trying to disperse the Sri Lankan forces so that any attack on the north, the rebels' main stronghold, will be diluted.

Political analysts said Muslims are targets because they do not support the rebel call for the division of Sri Lanka.

The ethnic war in Sri Lanka has claimed 3,350 lives since fighting resumed nine weeks ago, making it the deadliest phase in the 7-year-old civil war, according to a classified military document and government officials.

The officials, who spoke Thursday on condition of anonymity, said at least 2,000 civilians died in the fighting.

The war has driven at least 500,000 people from their homes into government relief camps.

The document, made available to the Associated Press, said at least 566 members of the security forces died in clashes with Tamil guerrillas. Among them were 242 soldiers and 297 policemen. At least 461 others were missed and presumed dead.

Tamil separatists resumed fighting the Sinhalese-dominated government on June 11 after a 13-month ceasefire.

Before the war resumed in June, a total of 13,000 people had died in the civil strife, which began in 1983.

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Thousands mark Zia's death anniversary

ISLAMABAD (R) — Tens of thousands of Pakistanis descended on Islamabad Friday to mark the second anniversary of the death of former President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq and watch his son launch himself on a political career.

Buses brought people sometimes hundreds of kilometres to Islamabad's Faisal Mosque where General Zia was buried at a tumultuous funeral three days after his plane plunged to the ground and burst into flames on Aug. 17, 1988.

"I liked Zia very much because of his policies," said Mohammad Anwar Mughal as he waited his turn to file through the flower-strewn octagonal mausoleum where Zia was buried in front of the mosque. He had come from Sialkot near the Indian border.

"He was a sincere and good leader of Pakistan," he said as the crowd chanted "man of faith, man of truth — Zia Ul Haq."

Many of the people waiting with Mughal were Afghan refugees who lionise Zia as the man who backed their battle against the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan with guns and money.

Huge portraits of Zia flanked

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Greenhouse gases reportedly rising

WASHINGTON (AP) — The gas most often implicated in the threat of global warming seems to be increasing faster than in past years, says a report issued Thursday by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The concentration of carbon dioxide in the air increased at an average rate of 1.71 parts per million over the last four years, said NOAA's Dr. Pieter Tans.

That is somewhat higher than the 1.5 parts per million rise reported in much of the 1980s. And in the 1960s the increase was reported at only 0.7 parts per million annually.

"The (carbon dioxide) increase varies a lot from year to year. One year it can change very little, and the next year it makes up for the slow increase," Tans said in a telephone interview. "At the moment it seems to be increasing fairly fast."

Concentrations of carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, CFC-11 and CFC-12 are monitored by NOAA's Climate Monitoring and Diagnostics Laboratory in Boulder, Colorado.

The increasing amounts of these gases in the air has caused concern in recent years. The gases are produced by industrial processes, heating and other human activities as well as some natural sources.

Many scientists worry that the gases will act somewhat like a greenhouse, causing Earth to overheat.

The short-wave radiation from sun that warms the Earth passes through them easily, but they can trap the longer wave radiation from Earth that normally cools the planet and keeps overall temperatures in balance.

Global concentrations of carbon dioxide, the most common of the so-called greenhouse gases, have increased by about 25 per cent since the mid-1800s, to just over 350 parts per million.

However, scientists disagree over whether any global heating

has already occurred.

Increasing the atmospheric level of carbon dioxide by one part per million requires the addition of 2.13 billion tonnes of carbon to the air. Much of this occurs through the burning of fossil fuels like coal and oil.

Other greenhouse gases are much less common.

Methane concentrations rose by 12 parts per billion per year, although officials said this growth rate may have declined slightly.

Nitrous oxide increased at a rate of 0.7 parts per billion per year.

CFC-11 was rising at 10 parts per trillion, while the rate for CFC-12 was 16 parts per trillion. Both of these chemicals are chlorofluorocarbons, used in refrigeration and other industrial processes. These chemicals also can damage the Earth's protective ozone layer. An international agreement has been signed to reduce their use.

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COLUMN

6-year-old boy beats chess master

LONDON (R) — A six-year-old British boy, who began playing chess two years ago, defeated American master Orest Popovych in a publicity match Thursday, becoming the youngest player in the history of the game to defeat a master. It took George Hassapis 10 minutes and 19 moves to dismiss Popovych, a World Chess Federation master and United States Chess Federation life master, in a game played on a giant board on the street at London's Marble Arch intersection.

The publicity game was played in advance of the Lloyd's Bank Masters, Britain's premier chess event. Popovych is known for having lost to the legendary Bobby Fischer in 1956.

Brando's son freed on bail

LOS ANGELES (R) — Christian Brando, the 32-year-old son of actor Marlon Brando, walked out of jail after his father put up his \$4 million Hollywood mansion as bail collateral. Christian, who is charged with murder in the shooting death of his half-sister Cheyenne's boyfriend, Dag Drollet, was collected from the gray, four-story Los Angeles County Jail by his father and half-brother, Mike Christian, a welder and part-time actor, saying briefly to speak to reporters, "I am just going to go home and try to straighten this thing out."

Marlon Brando, 62, standing with his arm around Christian's shoulders, said his son's release was "a moment I have long looked forward to." Christian is due back in court on Sept. 14 for pretrial motions. He has pleaded not guilty to murder and jury selection in the case is set to begin on Oct. 9.

Portable Braille typewriter introduced

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — The government introduced a portable electronic Braille typewriter, saying it will benefit thousands of blind people around the world. The colourful plastic product looks more like a child's toy than one of the most complex electromechanical devices ever made in Australia. Federal Industry, Technology and Commerce Minister John Button said it was "probably one of the most exciting products devised for blind people anywhere in the world in the last 20 years."

The Mountbatten Braille, named in honour of the Mountbatten Trust which funded the system's initial development by English researchers, can be used in many different ways. It can be hooked up to a printer or computer, allowing it to translate Braille into text or vice versa. This also allows non-Braille users to easily produce Braille. Quantum Technology Chairman Jeremy Miller said it was the first significant development in Braille technology since old-fashioned, personal Braille typewriters were developed more than 40 years ago. Several blind people who demonstrated the product at the powerboise museum said it was easy to use and would open up new opportunities for them at work and in every day communication.

Wrong patient

GAINESVILLE, Florida (AP) — A doctor was fined and another faces disciplinary action for mistakenly performing open-heart surgery on the wrong woman after a mix-up in patient records. Besides fining Dr. Howard W. Ramsey \$5,000, the state board of medicine ordered him to write an article for other doctors warning them about making the same mistake. Board action is still pending against Dr. Daniel Knauf, a University of Florida surgeon who operated on the healthy